



## How Rich Is Your Toolbox? GroupWords

How rich is your toolbox?

In the September 1993 issue of *Sports Illustrated*, NBA coach Pat Riley quoted from a *Harvard Business Review* article by Kenichi Ohmae. In fact, it was Riley's opening and closing line. The quote goes like this:

*To a man with a hammer,  
all problems look like nails.*

The point? Whether you are a top businessman, a winning NBA coach, or a godly Small Group Leader, there must be more in our toolbox than hammers. How rich is your toolbox?

- [DIVERSITY](#) — What is your current style of small group leadership?
- [LEARNING](#) — How are you growing in your ability to lead people in discussion?
- [FOCUS](#) — How do you help your group members find a practical application for their lives?
- [EMPATHY](#) — How do you create a “family” atmosphere for your group?
- [LEADERSHIP](#) — Are you able to tactfully control those who would dominate the discussion?
- [SAFETY](#) — What are your plans to encourage those who rarely speak in the group?
- [DISCOVERY](#) — How can you help/allow someone to “discover” the meaning of a scripture?

These are some of the “tools” that should be in the Small Group Leader's toolbox. I'm sure there are many more. But the point is that there is not one tool, we do not simply pound the truth in. God used prophets, kings, poets, children, men, women, writing, songs, stories, and more. His box is bursting with tools. And He teaches us that when we interact with people, we are to bring the best and most creative approaches that we have.

How rich is your toolbox?