

Biblical Principles of Group Dynamics

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Introduction.

A. Yesterday we tried to help you draw the line of your communication target.

B. We invaded two areas of communication.

1. The process in seven crucial steps.

a. Feedback from others is important.

b. Feedback from yourself is helpful.

c. Wives may be helpful but they also may be prejudiced.

d. Self criticism can be helpful if you're not too hard on yourself.

2. The problem of communication.

a. If you aren't aware of problem areas in communication you perpetuate the same mistakes.

b. Learn from your mistakes.

C. Today we want to address biblical principles of group dynamics.

1. We have two purposes.

a. Sharpen your focus.

b. I want to provide material you can use for others.

1. Biblical principles are true for everyone.

2. Emphasize the biblical nature of Navigator distinctive.

3. If your principles are true they are biblical.

2. I have studied the Life of our Lord to see how he developed people.

a. All students of Scripture must ask a central question of how God launched the church.

b. God could have done anything so why did he do what he did?

c. The Gospels show us he established a pattern with the disciples.

D. I want to surface four principles and recommend a book by A. B. Bruce, *The Training of the Twelve* that has profound implications for the Navigators.

1. Jesus emphasized quality not quantity.
 - a. Jesus ministered mostly to the few, not the multitudes.
 - b. Jesus built qualitatively into a few men.
 - c. The test of your ministry is not how many but what kind.
2. Jesus employed the principle of multiplication, not addition.
 - a. There is spiritual mathematics.
 - b. Jesus conceived of each man as a center of reproducing ministry.
 - c. Paul expresses this Christological expression. (2 Timothy 2:2)
3. Jesus employed the principle of priority, not pressure.
 - a. Time management is crucial.
 - b. The one difference between people is how we use time.
 - c. We don't have equal gifts but we have equal time.
 - d. Jesus went about doing good, but we often just go about, accomplishing little.
 - e. Jesus had three and a half years to launch a world-wide ministry but he was never under pressure.
 - f. The men Jesus built into turned the world upside down.
4. Jesus operated on the basis of potential, not problems.
 - a. Seeing people as problems instead of potential will determine how we respond to them.
 - b. We all work with unimpressive people, as even Jesus did.
 - c. Peter had hoof-in-mouth disease.
 - d. Thomas doubted.
 - e. Philip and Andrew may have had an 80 I.Q., yet they are the ones that led people to people.
 1. In John 14 Philip understood nothing but asked to see the Father.

2. They both had their hands in the kid's lunch box before the feeding of the thousands.

f. God's criteria for election is not profound. (1 Corinthians 1)

g. God chose us not on the basis of what we are but on the basis of what we are to become.

h. How do you select people to work with?

i. Sometimes I wonder how God will use some of my students.

1. Some graduate *summa cum laude*.

2. Some graduate *lorde how cum*.

3. Some students that are not gifted do well in ministry and *visa versa*.

j. Each person Jesus chose became a ministry to others.

k. Jesus worked qualitatively through a group of men that he spent time with.

1. Some ignorant fishermen became great leaders.

2. Jesus saw their potential.

E. What I see in group dynamics today can be discovered in the Gospel.

1. Instead of leading the pack we are following.

2. Dr. Edgar Dale has done some good research in learning and how it relates to group dynamics and found 10 principles.

a. The first four represent mass communication skills, but the use of words alone is the least effective method of communicating

b. The second step in communication is visualization, as we remember only 10% of what we hear, but 50% of what we hear and see.

3. The final six principles relate to individual and small group communication.

a. Small groups come out on top in terms of communicating.

b. Jesus often used illustrations with his small groups.

1. Jesus said, "I am the vine," which was a symbol of Israel.

2. Jesus sent out his disciples two by two.

3. A law professor develops winning lawyers has one principle; he'd rather have his students lose in the classroom and win in life than the reverse.
 4. We must get excited about what others do, not what we do.
 5. Jesus put his disciples out on field trips.
 6. Jesus taught about faith and then sent his disciples across the lake to get involved in a storm.
 - i. He said let's go the other side.
 - ii. He didn't say, "Let's go to the middle and drown."
 - iii. He rebuked the wind and waves; then he rebuked them for their lack of faith.
- c. I take students out with me when sharing Christ with others.
1. I shared with a student.
 2. I had my disciple pray with him and do follow up.
- d. The Navigators ministry has six of the most effective communication techniques going for it in disciplemaking ministry.