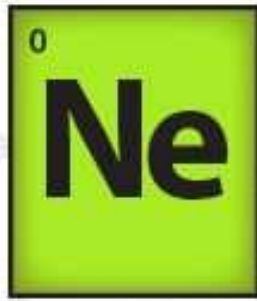
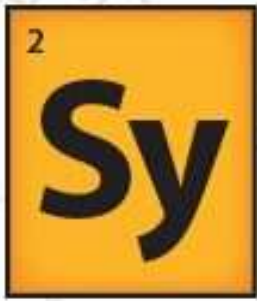


# The Science of **Small Groups** This Year at **Synergy**



## LABS & CASE STUDIES DESCRIPTIONS

[www.SynergyLive.org](http://www.SynergyLive.org)

This year, going along with our theme, "The Science of Small Groups", we've split our breakouts into two types: Labs and Case Studies. Labs are where you will get practical hands-on skills in leadership. Case Studies will introduce you to a curriculum or method of doing ministry that has been tried and tested. Each is repeated twice unless otherwise noted.

## LABS

### **I'll Pray For You... For Real**

Pastor Shawn Stutz

How can a small group leader truly have the greatest impact possible on the people in his or her group? How do leaders develop a deeply compassionate heart for the people they lead? This session will investigate the simple yet overlooked act of prayer available to every believer. In addition, one will learn of filters that can be used to effectively practice intercessory prayer. We know to abide in Christ for ourselves. Come and see how to abide in Christ for others.

### **Spiritual Practices for Groups (PM only)**

Pastor Josh Hall and Pastor Adrian Tsingarlis

We all want greater intimacy & connection with God. And in our groups we want to see lives transformed. But when it comes to a greater connection with God or becoming more like Jesus, many people wonder if change is even possible. For most: the problem is not that we are unwilling to change, or don't have the desire to, but simply: we have never been shown how. In this class we will explore the habits and practices found in Scripture and specifically in the life and teachings of Jesus and learn how God uses these practices in our lives to help us be in His presence more regularly, and therefore become more like Christ.

### **The Recipe for a Healthy Small Group (PM only)**

Pastor Scott Miller

In this session, you will learn how these four unique and challenging principles can and will produce a healthy small group. When practiced, they produce deeper, Christ-centered relationships inside your group. You will then hear personal testimony of how these principles will integrate into your personal character, offering the same beautiful result in all of your relationships.

### **Small Group Leadership 101 (AM only)**

Ken Mullette & Shawn Luis

Leading a small group is a very rewarding and exciting privilege. It gives you the opportunity to build community, disciple others and see God work through you! There is little more rewarding than seeing God transform a person's life! Whether you're new to small group leadership, or just thinking about it, this breakout will give you the opportunity to learn exactly what is involved in leading a small group, and give you some great ideas and skills as you begin leading your group!

### **Deeper**

Pastor Bud Lamb

In this breakout, learn simple, ready to implement steps to grow your group and your leadership life deeper with God.

### **Leading Your Soul**

Carolyn Taketa

As leaders, we focus much time and effort in shepherding and caring for others. Yet, more than anything else you do, it is your own journey with God that will have the greatest impact on your small group's spiritual health and growth. So what is the state of your soul these days? How authentic are you with God, yourself and others? Is your work for God jeopardizing the work of God in you? We will explore these issues, examine what depletes our souls, and consider steps that we can take to refresh, replenish, and lead our souls well.

### **Taxicab Leadership: A Coach Approach to Leading Small Groups (AM only)**

Pastor Scott Ramsey

Coaching is said to be similar to taxi car driving. A person calls on a taxi to help them get from where they are to where they want to go. As small group leaders, it is our job to take people on a spiritual growth journey, helping people navigate from where they currently are, to where they want to be. In this breakout, you will learn how to re-image small group leadership to ensure group participants are guided to take ownership of their spiritual growth journey.

### **The Love of God in Leadership**

Jason Velo

*Description coming soon!*

### **The Externally Focused Small Group (AM only)**

Pastor Jim Todd

Leading your group to be externally focused not only makes an impact for Jesus in the community, but also transforms the lives of your small group members. Christians are at their best when the love of Jesus compels them to reach out to others, meeting both the practical and spiritual needs of the community. How do you do it as a group? What can you do? You'll come away from this breakout with some answers to these questions and fired up to make a difference for Jesus by leading your group to serve the community! "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18

### **How to Lead FANTASTIC Meetings (PM only)**

Pastor Tim Weems

How would you describe your small group meetings? Waste of time or worth the time? We will take a look at what to do "Before, During, After, In-Between" small group meetings.

## **The Computer Cluster and Two-Way Street: Practical Ways to Develop the Next Generation (PM only)**

Pastor Scott Ramsey

Times have changed and the way young people interact with each other and with their elders have changed. This is a pivotal time in the church as a new generation of young adults desire to make a difference in the world yet without knowing exactly how to do it. In this breakout, you will see leadership development as more than a program and begin to re-image the way you begin to build leaders of the emerging generations.

## **How Do I Handle That? Gracefully Responding to Problematic Behaviors in Small Groups (AM only)**

Lorie Howe

Small group facilitators and members who skillfully respond to problematic behaviors help the group become a place to develop meaningful relationships and experience life-impacting growth. Come learn relational strategies for responding to spiritualizers, dominators, and needy individuals who consume group time. Gain skills for protecting and promoting growth in your personal relationships and in your small group.

## **Using Small Groups to create Community Support for Single Adults (PM only)**

Pastor Dave Matas

One of the greatest needs in the single community is support. We will look at ways to can use your small groups to support single adults, set healthy boundaries and direct them to grow together as they serve one another.

## **Being an Effective Small Group Pastor / Ministry Leader (AM only)**

Pastor Steve Gladen

If you lead a small group ministry in your church, join our main speaker Steve Galden as he talks about how to effectively lead a small group ministry.

# CASE STUDIES

## **Simply Strategic Small Groups (AM only)**

Pastor Mike Moore

How can you get the majority of your church involved in small groups? How do you recruit enough small group leaders? What is a good structure for small-group ministry? How do I get small groups involved in serving and evangelism? If you've found yourself asking these questions, here's a great breakout for you. This breakout will present a simple and tested small group system called "Activate" that could help you take your small group ministry to 100% involvement. You'll get practical ideas that you can apply right away to your small group ministry, as well as a strategic system you can implement when you're ready.

## **XEE: Training People in Relational Evangelism**

Pastor Randy Bowman

XEE teaches Jesus followers how to share the story of the gospel within the context of relationship. The younger generations are wired to see the world through their relationships, but too often we meet people who are missing out on the one that matters most. XEE is a training tool that will equip you to build intentional and lasting friendships for the sake of actively introducing the people in your life to Jesus. Find out more about this excellent new approach in this breakout.

## **Recovery, Without the "R" Word**

Anthony Martin

In this case study, learn about a unique approach to recovery which reaches people in and beyond your church - some of whom would never think of themselves needing recovery. Taking the power of Scripture, together with the 12 steps, learn about a ministry that leads people through a process of transformation and "recovery."

## **Increasing Engagement and Critical Thinking In Your Group (AM only)**

Pastor Josh Hall

Do you struggle as a leader getting people engaged in your group? Do you wish your group participated more? Do you feel that you have to do all or most of the talking and thinking for your group members rather than along with them? In this session, we will discuss practical things that you can do before, during and after your group to help increase the engagement and participation of group members with what you are studying and thinking through together.

## **She Said WHAT! Learning to Respond with Healing Words (PM only)**

Lorie Howe

While small groups and women's ministry gatherings should be places that promote growth, unhealthy comments and attitudes remind leaders of the severe shortage of relational first aid kits. Women, come and learn to fend off relational injuries. Develop strategies for responding to awkward situations that scare others away. Why squeak or squirm when you can speak healing words.

## **Activate Advanced (PM only)**

Ed Applegate & Kevin Finkbiner

Whether you've implemented the Activate Model of Small Groups, or are considering it, this breakout will take you deeper into how to effectively run this system. You'll learn how to build teams, train leaders, promote groups, and more. You'll leave with many practical ideas that will impact your small group ministry for the better!

## **Making Theology Accessible**

Steve Jones

For four years and counting, Crossroads has run "The Theology Program". This is a video-based, seminary-level, theology course. In this case study, learn about how to make theology accessible to every person in your church or small group!

## **BattleZONE – Life-Changing Groups for Men (PM Only)**

Gil Rosas

Most men learn best by seeing and doing, by being mentored and coached. BattleZONE is a discipleship tool designed to create a culture of open learning where men like you can bring real-life temptations and struggles into the open where they can be taught, shown and coached. In this breakout, you'll learn a proven way to lead groups that truly transform men's lives – your men's group will never be the same!

## **Grief Share (PM only)**

Nancy and Van Switzer

Who wants to talk about death? Actually, we do it poorly in the United States, but we have a solution that is the opposite of sweeping our emotions under the rug. GriefShare is a nondenominational 13 week DVD series, developed by Church Initiative so people do not have to walk through their grief alone. Your church can do this! This breakout session will show a sample of one of the DVD's and go over a typical session.