

# **Workshop Descriptions**

## **2008 ABF Conference**

### **Workshops A Friday 3:00 – 4:15**

#### **Developing Church-Wide (40 day) Discipleship Campaigns**

Adam Peterson has been an integral part of developing three annual church wide Unified Discipleship Themes at Midland Evangelical Free Church (Sunday attendance 1600). These campaigns included ingredients for children, students, worship, small groups, and mid-size groups. This workshop will share the blessings and fruit and the expectable challenges of churchwide discipleship campaigns, and will share best and worst practices, and it will be done with humor and energy.

#### **Top 10 Actions to Grow Your ABF Ministry.**

From prayer to setting goals and from inviting FRANs to starting new ABFs, evaluate and prioritize ten actions that can help you grow this year.

#### ***Church: Gathered Strangers or Growing Families?***

What is the connection and growth factor like in your church? By their very design, ABF's are meant to move people into a deeper relationship with Christ and with one another!

#### **Going from Clueless to Purposeful: General strategies for improving your ABF ministry**

This workshop is for those who oversee ABFs in a lay or staff role and are newer to the ABF ministry. We will talk about how to start a new ABF, how to improve your current ABFs and ABF teaching ministry.

#### **Creating an Environment in Midsize Groups for “Life Transformation”**

It seems like midsize group environments get a bum rap when it comes to the “life transformation” discussion. Although the intimacy levels of small groups are designed to be more intense than midsize groups, midsize groups can and do have a significant, life-changing impact on peoples' lives. This workshop will explore some intentional ways to encourage “life transformation” in midsize group's settings.

#### **Lecture, Rinse, Repeat!?! How to be a Cre-8-ive Teacher (that changes lives)**

Are you stuck in a rut as a teacher? A hammer is a good tool for driving home a point, but you'll need something else to install a doorway or a bathtub. Come fill your teacher's tool box in this helpful seminar for all teachers from novice to expert. Your students will thank you.

#### **The Basics of Planning & Preparing Bible Lessons**

So, you've been asked to teach at your church and you're inclined to accept the ministry because you believe you are (or might be) gifted in the area of teaching. Now, you have got to get about planning and preparing some material and, if the truth be told, you really could use some help. Come learn some basic and "road-tested" principles that will assist and encourage you in moving forward with your teaching ministry.

#### **Principles and Practices of Small Group Life**

Just as you can't plant a garden before tilling the ground, you can't begin a small group ministry before learning the basic principles and practices of small group life such as authenticity, sharing stories, and experiential discipleship.

## **Basics of Christian Community--What it is, Why is it Important, What Values are Essential to Make it Happen?**

If you ask your small group members, or even your small group leaders what are the most important things your group is about, what would they say? Or, if you asked them what the core practices of the group were when they gather, what would they say? Groups that have a narrow focus over long periods of time tend to repeatedly immerse themselves in what they like, rather than pushing out into areas where they have to take risks and grow. Help your groups develop good group process by discovering the core values of Christian Community.

## **Workshops B Friday 4:45 – 6:00**

### **Creating “Owners” not “Hirelings” to Lead Your Groups**

Spiritual “ownership” of the people by the leaders is one of the most empowering elements of healthy churches. This workshop will explore and unpack the idea, and encourage action steps of implementation in your ministry.

### **Evaluating Your Midsize Group Ministry**

This workshop will provide some evaluation “tests” including the leadership test, the productivity test, etc. that will cover the key aspects of a midsize group ministry as a whole and also individual groups.

### **Launching an ABF Ministry**

Learn some insights from the staff of Wayside Chapel in San Antonio, Texas on how they implemented their ABF/midsize group ministry principles, as they transitioned from a traditional Adult Sunday school model. Issues to be addressed include ways of sharing the new vision, educating your leadership, promoting it to the church, equipping your leadership, etc. Churches coming from a small group’s background will also find many of these principles applicable as you begin implementing midsize groups in your church setting.

### **The challenges of Care and Prayer in Communities**

How do we meet the challenges of Care and Prayer in our communities and stay connected to the larger church care resources.

### **ABF Leadership: Creating Community in a 100 Ways**

The ABF Leader is a crucial role in enhancing community. This workshop will focus on how doing care, greeting, socials, service and more with excellence can strengthen the relational ties of the people.

### **Mapping the Christian Journey: A Travel Guide to 7 Stages of Formation**

Welcome to this exploration of how God transforms us to be like Christ across the decades of the Christian life. This seminar will give you a life-long spiritual map to understand better where you are in the journey of transformation, it will give you perspectives to dramatically improve your personal disciple-making, AND it will provide a powerful transformational model of disciple-making for your entire church/ministry.

### **Using Small Groups in Your Teaching Ministry**

This workshop will share insights on how to leverage the power of midsize group and small group dynamics in your teaching ministry and will help in generating energy and developing intimacy within your midsize group ministry.

### **Developing Self-Feeders in a Spoon-Fed World--Non-Consumer Small Group Discipleship Methods**

Consumerism, in the context of relationships, is when you are trying to extract happiness from one another or an organization. That mentality will kill a marriage, a friendship, a small group, and even a church. Our goal, stated or not, hopefully is not to extract happiness from one another. Rather Matt. 5:3 says, "Blessed (happy) are those who realize their need for Him (God), for the Kingdom of Heaven is given to them." How can you help your group or church overcome the consumerism mindset? By training them to have a desperate need for God and to be others focused!

### **Developing Shared Leadership in a Small Group**

How to design, develop and build shared leadership in a small group. Whether it is co-leaders and apprentices or champions for care, prayer, outreach, worship and fellowship, having shared leadership helps groups become more balanced, healthy and effective. Shared leadership encourages more group members to step up and use their gifts and passions to serve Christ instead of being spectators.

## **Workshops C Saturday 11:00 – 12:15**

### **Clusters: Midsized Missional Communities - Q & A**

This workshop question and answer session follows Mike's main session on Clusters: Midsized Missional Communities and will provide more details on "Clusters" and how they function. As time allows, Mike will develop the strategy further.

### **Practical Strategies for Leading Change Effectively**

This workshop provides a chance to explore why current cultural shifts and the diversity of human personality makes leading change in our Churches more complex than ever before.

### **Aligning Ministries Through the ABF: From a Silo to Synergy Strategy**

How many times do we struggle with the complexity of the church calendar? Or struggle with the challenges of church programs competing for the same person's time? There has been a tendency in the modern American church to equate busyness with godliness. Today, simple is in, complexity is out! How do we reflect that in our ABF communities? In this workshop we will explore the need to make simple the process of discipleship and to develop synergy with other ministries in the church instead of competition. Examples from several churches will be examined with workshop participants determining one or two areas of their present ministry to begin transforming.

### **ABF Leadership: Building and Maintaining a Core Team**

Sometimes ABF's seem to be more of a "program" than a "ministry". As a leader, how can you keep that from happening? Come to explore and discuss ways to invest in a core team that will cause your ABF to be more about fulfilling the desires of Christ than making sure things are just getting done.

### **Moving Sunday School Classes Toward Being Communities**

Plan fellowship, ministry, organizational, and outreach actions that deepen relationships, connect members and guests, and recover absentees.

### **I've Got a Question for You: The Use of Good Questions in Your Teaching Ministry**

Of all the teaching techniques, what do you think is the most effective? What is a good way to determine if your students are learning from you and connecting with you? Do you know how many questions Jesus asked that are recorded in the Bible? Why do you think Jesus asked so many questions? What do questions communicate about the teacher? What do questions communicate to the students? What are good and bad questions? Wouldn't you consider attending this workshop?

### **Presentation Skills 201: Going the Extra Mile**

In this workshop we'll look at different ways to teach the Bible effectively and creatively. We'll explore how to use PowerPoint, props, pictures, storytelling, drama, humor and song to keep your students engaged and to help illuminate Scripture. However, we'll also take steps to insure that the presenter and the presentation don't usurp the focus from God's Word.

### **Grasping the Heart of Leadership**

A passionate leader with a concrete vision is possibly the most important factor in any small group endeavor. This workshop will address key issues in helping you to organize, unify and direct your small group ministry.

### **Good to Great: How to Become a Better Small Group Coach**

Small Groups can settle for being good places to study the Bible, make some friends, and pray, or they can become great groups that make a great, life-changing, impact. We will discuss how coaches can help leaders and groups make this vital shift.

## **Workshops D Saturday 1:30 – 2:45**

### **The Historical and Theological Rationale for Mid Size Groups**

The multiplication of "neighborhood" and "network" Mid Size Groups was the Church growth strategy for the first three hundred years!

### **Practical Strategies for Equipping and Discipling Your Key Leaders**

Running mid sized groups means training and trusting more leaders, discipling them becomes the primary task of the senior leaders but very few have any models or tools to help them

### ***Stimulating Excellence & Accountability with ABF Teachers***

Does "practice" really "make perfect"? Without encouragement to stretch and without some level of accountability, teachers can settle for something less than excellence in their ministry!

### **Outreach and Other Ideas to Build Your ABF**

Lead your ABF to take actions that will increase guests, attendance, and enrollment this year.

### **Beyond Rugged Individualism - Friends, Group Life, and the Church in Spiritual Formation**

Have you explored the power of spiritual friendships for Christ-like transformation. This workshop will begin with an exploration of the friendship of the Trinity as the epitome of spiritual friendship and will explore dynamics of formation in community. It was never designed for us to do this journey alone. Be reminded of the absolute necessity and joy of growing like Christ together and forever.

### **How's your flock? Moving Beyond just Teaching to Shepherding**

How would you like to move beyond the strict definition of a “teacher” (“one who gives instruction and knowledge”) to the “pastor-teacher” referenced in the book of Ephesians (“a ‘shepherd’ nurturing a ‘flock’”)? What might happen if you moved beyond a “teacher-student” relationship to a “shepherd-sheep” relationship? What are you doing about the “straying and other challenging sheep” you are called to teach? What is a shepherd’s “classroom”? What is a shepherd’s “teaching time”? Do you hear your students? Isn’t that bleating?

### **Its ADULT Bible Fellowship: Distinct Characteristics of Adults and Why They Matter**

This workshop will help each participant identify specific characteristics of adult and develop methods to address that characteristic in Bible teaching and application. Adult learners approach problems as individuals, but each brings a wealth of knowledge to the discussion. Understanding the issues raised by adult characteristics will allow us to be more effective in reaching adults for discipleship environments.

### **Leading Like the Best Small Group Leader Ever**

For three years, Jesus modeled small group leadership for his disciples and us. What can we learn from Jesus about leading our groups today? Plenty! We will look at just a few of the attributes that made Jesus the Best Small Group Leader Ever, and see how we can be more like him as we lead.

### **Leading the Small Group Meeting**

Too often people in small groups believe and act like they signed up for a weekly meeting. But small group life is much more than a meeting, it is a way of life. This workshop will not only focus on tips for leading great group meetings, but what will share a vision of what group life can look like in between meetings as life is lived out in the trenches.