

# Our Goal

to the Adult Small Group Coordinator and church leadership

## **Working together, we hope to:**

### *1. Work within the frame work of your current small group structure.*

We want to compliment and enhance your small group structure.

We want to meet your adult small group wherever they are at on their spiritual journey.

### *2. Help your small group members become more externally focused.*

We begin by taking your small group outside of their comfort zone. This is where real growth occurs.

While they will be confronted by a lot of things through this experience, we won't use pressure or guilt--just open-ended discussion. Our service experiences and discussions are designed to challenge them to become more externally focused.

We also understand that most people are coming from a very busy, middle-class lifestyle. We'll keep this in consideration as we start to move your small group members towards thinking about how they can become more externally focused.

### *3. Increase participation in your ongoing outreach programs.*

Our last discussion focuses on whether God is calling an individual or the entire small group to become more externally focused.

You may want to lead or co-lead this session. It will give you the opportunity to suggest specific ministries, partnerships, or outwardly focused opportunities that your church sponsors. This is a great opportunity to introduce them to your service ideas or philosophy.

An alternative might be for you to meet with each small group after their Plunge experience to help them debrief and process their thinking further. Either of these ways works for us.

***4. Reach the “80%”. The Plunge is not the end-game, it’s the only the beginning.***

Maybe you’ve announced a new mission emphasis like ‘adopting-a-block’ in North Omaha. There may have been a lot of initial excitement, and a few folks stepped forward to engage, but the remaining adults were blurry-eyed and didn’t join in.

One reason for this lack of involvement might be because it seems like too big of a step to move from the pews to the street.

We are hoping to reach the segment of adults who are actively involved in their small group, but unsure of what their next step should be.

We believe that a lot of your adults will like the idea of a one day Plunge, as it is a short time commitment. Nonetheless, we hope that the Plunge will be more than this, though. We want it to serve as a catalyst-event, an eye-opening and thought-provoking experience. It provides a space for God to start tugging on hearts and whispering in ears.

The reason we want your adults to have this *Plunge experience* is because it will serve as a bridge--to take the first steps towards an active engagement lifestyle.

***5. Bring your small group closer together.***

The Plunge offers a ‘common shared experience’ that strengthens group bonds and creates shared memories. They get to go on a mini-mission-trip together.

***6. Increase your small groups.***

Several churches are planning to open up the Plunge experience to adults who are not connected to a small group. They are convinced that these unaffiliated adults will bond with each other through the Plunge experience and feel more comfortable in joining a group.

***7. Provide an easy-to-do, low cost, simple format opportunity for you.***

We arrange all the logistics and your small groups simply show up for the Plunge. We provide the facilitator, food, ministry experiences, and discussion.

## *8. Provide you with options.*

1. Your groups can just take the Plunge.
2. Your groups can experience the Plunge in a 'series' format. We've developed materials to be used in a four week series, with two pre-Plunge group discussions, and one follow-up group discussion to be taken after the actual Plunge.

## *9. Meet your specific needs.*

We want to make this Plunge experience work within your church's context of how you organize your small groups.

This requires us to be flexible. We've designed a basic format that will allow us to alter some of the Plunge specifically to meet your needs.

- We've planned a twelve-hour experience, but there is also an overnight option. In this case, we would add a couple more ministries and a 'retreat' experience with wonderful, late-into-the-night bonding time.
- Some churches have requested that their children participate. For this option, the children would join the adults in the volunteer portions, but perhaps have a separate discussion time.
- We really are flexible, so we try not to say "no" at first. Your customization is always open for discussion. Please let us know how we can serve you.

## *10. Provide you with marketing materials.*

- A simple "how-to" guide for the adult small group coordinator.
- A simple "how-to" guide for your adult small group leader.
- A post card that introduces the Plunge for your small group members.
- Promotional videos to share with small groups or your church.
- A thought provoking two-minute video that your groups can watch and discuss before they go on the Plunge.
- During the Plunge, our facilitators will take lots of pictures and produce a slideshow DVD. This can be shared with your church or to other small groups that haven't gone.