



COUNTDOWN

*Launching & Leading
Transformational Groups*

Conversation Plan

IDEAS FOR USING THESE QUESTIONS

This plan is designed for a church leader to meet with current and potential group leaders in an informal setting. These meetings could take place over coffee, during lunch, or in a living room. Use the questions to facilitate informal discussion about the content found in **Countdown**. Copies of **Countdown** would be distributed to each person with reading of a specific chapter being encouraged prior to the informal meeting. You may also want to provide by email or a card, the questions or issues you want to discuss during to the informal meeting.

INTRODUCE URGENCY FOR COUNTDOWN

Prayerfully identify names of people our church has an opportunity to impact:

- 1) People around us like those Jesus impacted
- 2) People already participating in one or more ministries through our church
- 3) People who are (or will be) disciple-makers through our church
- 4) Pre Christians in our area of impact

Overview each of the ten categories in the Table of Contents of *Countdown: Launching and Leading Transformational Groups*. Scan the content on 1 Essential Book and 2 Key Words.

What opportunities do we have to strengthen our emphasis on the Bible as our essential Book? What opportunities do we have for emphasizing SMALL and NEW?

COUNTDOWN: TEN TERMS (pages 7-14)

Which of the ten terms represent strategies we intentionally use in our church?

Which do we emphasize? Which do we need to give more attention?

COUNTDOWN: NINE REASONS (pages 15-22)

Discuss the extent to which you agree (10) or to which you disagree (0) with the following statement: We are willing to impact people anywhere, anytime, 24/7, to do anything necessary to help them grow as followers of Christ. What has to happen for this to be said about our church?

COUNTDOWN: EIGHT CHOICES (pages 23-34)

How will we answer the "Choices" questions (1) based on existing group(s) through the church, and (2) based on any new group(s) we will need to start?

Make a list of five people (or people groups) you would like to connect through one or more new groups through your church. What are some specific instructions to leaders/hosts and to participants of the group that will help them best connect with those individuals or people groups?

COUNTDOWN: SEVEN ELEMENTS (pages 35-38)

Which of the seven elements of transformation do we see most evidence through our existing groups?

Choose one or two of the seven elements, and determine ways a new group could demonstrate that element.

COUNTDOWN: SIX CHALLENGES (pages 39-44)

How do you respond to the statement that we must be thinking of ways we can start new groups anywhere and anytime, 24/7?

How can our challenges become opportunities?

COUNTDOWN: FIVE STAGES (pages 45-48)

Overview each stage for launching new groups. What are the opportunities for our church if we will intentionally provide groups to disciple the following? What will we do to help our church disciple at least one of the following:

- A) Believers who participate in only worship through this church;
- B) Potential leaders who currently participate in a group through our church, but not as a leader;
- C) Pre-Christians who currently live within range of the church?

Imagine you are enlisting someone to help be part of a new group. Which visual (on page 48) best describes (1) what you are enlisting a leader to do in the group and (2) what you are asking participants to do in the group?

Identify a new group that needs to be started. How can we use the five stages to start that new group?

COUNTDOWN: FOUR STARTING POINTS (pages 49-50)

Overview the four starting points. What is the approach used in group(s) in our church? What are advantages of multiple groups having resources that intentionally relate to the same starting point?

Make a list of the groups needing to be started through our church during the coming months. Identify the starting point(s) that will be most appropriate to use with those new groups.

COUNTDOWN: THREE PURPOSES (pages 51-54)

What is the primary purpose(s) of our group(s)?

What kind of giftedness do you use in impacting the group where you serve?

How can we help leaders influence how groups will be growing disciples?

LAUNCH: TWO KEY WORDS (pages 55-56)

Review opportunities we have to make more disciples through our church. Identify the groups our church needs to seek to start during the coming months. Review benefits for starting these new groups.

Review the website *GroupsMatter.com*. What is one insight you gained from the information on that site that we need to consider implementing?

LAUNCH: ONE ESSENTIAL BOOK (pages 57-63)

How can we help provide a map or menu for making disciples through groups in our church?

If we knew time was counting down, what actions should we take as a response to a sense of urgency?