

BREAK-

{ Creating a New Scorecard
for Group Ministry Success }

THROUGH

KEN BRADY

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To Cindy Weatherall, my superfan in Pensacola, Florida.
Your words of encouragement and your enthusiasm for
the Bible teaching ministry of the church have been life-
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Preface

I love golf.

I was introduced to the game by A. J. (Joe) Downing, my grandfather or, as I called him, “Popsi.” Later in life I learned that he was a Sunday School department director at University Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas. He was also a deacon. His ordination certificate and his Bible are in my home office.

In life he was right-handed, but in golf he was a leftie. He loved the game so much that he bought a used golf cart and hauled it to and from the golf course in the bed of his 1967 Chevy pickup truck. I remember he kept a pair of wood rails in the bed of that old truck, and it was terrifying to watch him load and unload that old golf cart, using the wood slats as makeshift ramps.

Popsi gave me my first set of golf clubs. When he and my grandmother came to visit, Popsi would always take me to the driving range at the University of Texas at Arlington. We’d hit buckets of practice balls for hours. I loved my time with him.

And then Popsi took me to play my first round of golf while my family was at his house for a visit. All I remember about my first round of golf was that he was patient and kind, and he had to keep telling me to pick up my ball so we could

move on. I must have been holding up the pace of play. As time went on, I got better at golf. Better . . . not great. Golf is hard work! On the course I saw my first golf scorecard. Popsi kept score for both of us. The scorecard helped us keep track of who was winning. It was not even a contest in those early days!

The Golf Scorecard

Every course provides golfers with a scorecard and a small golf pencil at the beginning of their round. The scorecard measures two things: *the total number of shots made per hole and the total number of shots made per round*. That's it. The focus is on the total score. Nothing else is measured.

When golfing with a group of friends, scores matter. It is good etiquette for the person who just had the low score on a hole to tee off first on the next one. It is called "having honors."

The Old Scorecard for Groups

If you have been around group Bible studies for any amount of time, you have realized it also has a scorecard. Right or wrong, the old scorecard for groups has measured one thing: *the total number of people in Bible study each week*. That's not necessarily a bad measurement. We should be concerned about numbers. After all, numbers represent people.

"How many people were in your Bible study today?" is a question group leaders ask one another. We like to compare our group to another person's group to see if we are winning or losing. Attendance has always been our way of keeping score. For years it seems like the mantra has been, "The person with the biggest group wins."

Attendance is something we can measure, and we can compare the number to last week's attendance, or attendance last year on the same Sunday, or the attendance of other groups. But is this the primary way we should measure the success of groups? I do believe we should measure attendance, but like the golf scorecard, measuring attendance is like measuring the total number of shots taken. It is a one-dimensional way to see how well you are doing in golf, and it is a one-dimensional way to view your Bible study group. Could there be other ways to measure the effectiveness and success of Bible study groups? I believe the answer is a resounding yes.

Creating a New Measurement Tool for Groups

When I began to focus on improving my golf game, I invested a lot of money in golf shoes, golf clubs, a golf bag (two, actually—a cart bag and a stand bag), buckets of balls, and private lessons. My scoring improved but not in relation to the large cash outlays I made.

As my golf game evolved, I learned there was more to measure than just my total score. I learned about important measurements that could help me improve my game. When I began tracking these things and moved past only being concerned about my score, my golf game improved quickly. I had focused too much on my total score without measuring the things that could actually lower it. I began measuring things like:

- Driving distance (how far the ball travels from the tee box to its resting place).
- GIR (greens in regulation). GIR on a par 3 means hitting the ball onto the green in 1

stroke, 2 or fewer strokes on a par 4, and 3 strokes or fewer on a par 5.

- FIR (fairways in regulation). FIR means hitting the ball into the main landing area on a par 4 or par 5 hole—the place where the grass is cut short.
- Number of putts per round.
- Sand saves (hitting the golf ball out of a sand bunker, onto the green, and making par).

Tracking FIRs, GIRs, putts, driving distance, and sand saves helps me see where I need to work on the weaker aspects of my game. The same is true in the world of Bible study. By creating a new scorecard for groups, we can get a better picture of our performance in leading our groups. This can create a big advantage for group leaders who begin to use a system for tracking their “game.”

Creating a New Scorecard for Groups

Earlier I said that the old scorecard for Bible study groups focused on attendance. It is not a *bad* measurement, but it certainly falls short of giving group leaders a complete picture of what is taking place in their groups—or what *should* be taking place. What if we measured groups in ways that might give us a better idea of how Bible study groups are really doing? As with my new golf scorecard, we could see where we need to improve.

It is time to create a new way to measure the success of groups.

The mission of ongoing Bible study groups can be summed up in four measurements. Those four measurements make up the four sections of this book. Together they make up the new scorecard for groups. These four measurements

create a new framework for evaluating the success of Bible study groups.

I began using these four goals in my church's Bible study groups years ago when I served as a full-time discipleship pastor. These four measurements keep the focus on what matters most. To say it another way, they help groups know whether they are on target. The four main measurements cover essentials such as Bible study and spiritual growth, evangelism, relationships, and serving others. They are listed below:

- Learn and obey God's Word.
- Invite people to become disciples.
- Form deeper relationships.
- Engage in acts of service.

When I was earning my degree in Christian education, my professors taught "the six pillars of Sunday School"—reach, teach, witness, worship, care, and fellowship. I found a new way to say something similar through the LIFE acrostic. And if you look closely, you'll see all six pillars represented.

Because I believe firmly that there is more to group life than what happens on a Sunday morning, the first letter of each of the four measurements spells the acrostic LIFE. Bible study should not only be about what happens from nine to noon on Sunday; it should prepare Jesus's disciples for a lifetime of devotion to Him. We do not attend a Bible study to learn interesting or unique facts about the Bible. We learn the Word of God so that we can obey it. From cradle to grave, the Bible teaches us the way to please God as we love Him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength.

As we explore each aspect of the LIFE acrostic that makes up the four sections of this book, we will ask four questions related to each of those measurements. That means

we will ask sixteen diagnostic questions about the overall practices of Bible study groups. Together these sixteen questions will assist us in measuring the success of groups, giving us a new way to measure how effectively groups are accomplishing the four main LIFE measurements.

No group is going to be able to answer yes to all sixteen questions, and that is all right. We must first be honest about the current state of our groups. Then we can move forward and work to improve them. It may feel a bit daunting at first, but I promise that in time group leaders will have much healthier groups.

In golf, as in Bible study, there is more than one way to measure success. It is time, perhaps past time, to move beyond making attendance the main measurement of group health. We will continue to count people—that won't change. But by asking sixteen key questions related to the four LIFE measurements, groups can be reoriented to a new way of measuring success in Bible study.

How to Use This Book

Review

After reading each chapter, focus on the three main ideas that are listed. These will help you remember the most important ideas from each chapter.

Personal Reflection

Respond to the end-of-chapter discussion questions as you read the book. Consider how you might lead your Bible study group to implement changes that would position it to be more effective in accomplishing the four measurements of group success.

Group Study

Commit to read the book with several others. Read one chapter a week and discuss the concepts at a weekly gathering. Or, to move through the content more quickly, read one section (four chapters) at a time, respond to the reflection questions, and discuss them all at a weekly meeting. Focus on applying the content to your ministry context.

Training

Purchase a copy of the book for each group leader in your church's teaching ministry and ask them to read it prior to a training event you conduct that focuses on the content in the book.

Do

There is a to-do list at the end of each chapter. Accomplish the to-dos as a way of applying the concepts found in each chapter.

Measurement 1

Learn and Obey God's Word

Chapter 1

Are Group Members Growing as Disciples?

My first job was stocking groceries at my local Winn-Dixie supermarket. I remember nervously applying for the job. I was unable to fill out the “prior experience” section of the application because, well, I didn’t have any. I had just turned sixteen! As I filled out the application, I thought, *There is no way I’ll get hired. I don’t have any experience.*

Still, I got an interview with the assistant manager of the grocery store, and afterwards he offered me the job. During my interview he told me he needed to hire several new employees. It turned out that I did have something to offer—a pulse! I am glad he took a chance on me, but when I showed up for my first day of work, I still wondered if I could do the job.

Over time I learned new skills, and I matured in my ability to juggle schoolwork and my new job. The assistant manager was not seeking experience. Instead, he hired people who were eager to work, had a track record of dependability, and could be good team players. The manager was more

concerned with character than skills. Those would come with time.

Perhaps you are reading this book and are not currently a group leader in your church's teaching ministry. You might wonder, *Do I have what it takes? Can I help people mature as disciples of Christ?* Those are fair questions, and it means you are taking this leadership role seriously. You may not have a lot of experience, but like the circumstances of my first job, skills can be learned. Maybe you are currently a group leader, but you have questions about whether you are the right person to lead your group and help people grow as disciples.

When God invites someone to serve, He does not necessarily look at their skill level. He looks at their heart. David was Jesse's youngest son and went from herding sheep to leading the nation of Israel as king. When David faced off against Goliath, he was confident in God's ability to win the coming battle. If you had been David, would you have thought, *There's no way I can win against this giant*, or would you have thought, *Goliath is so big, how can I miss!*

Scripture refers to David as "a man after God's own heart" on two occasions. The first is at 1 Samuel 13:14: "The LORD has found a man after his own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over his people." The second time the phrase was used by the apostle Paul in Acts 13:22: "He raised up David as their king and testified about him, 'I have found David the son of Jesse to be a man after my own heart, who will carry out all my will.'" Was David perfect? Far from it! He loved God, but he also failed at times. Despite his failures, David's desire was to honor and serve God. And God used David in some amazing ways.

Character catches God's attention. We know that He constantly searches the earth to find people who love and honor Him. "For the eyes of the LORD roam throughout the earth to show himself strong for those who are

wholeheartedly devoted to him” (2 Chron. 16:9). Skills can be taught, but if character is lacking, skills are irrelevant. I love the story of Jesus’s earthly father, Joseph. He is described as a righteous man (not perfect, but his heart was inclined toward God). Joseph was faithful to Mary during their journey toward marriage. He was someone who deeply loved. This was evidenced by his desire to put Mary away quietly rather than shame her publicly. Joseph was also an obedient man. He immediately did as the angel of the Lord instructed him in a dream. I imagine that God chose Joseph to be Jesus’s earthly father in part because of his character. Character matters. You do not have to be perfect, but you should see progress in your walk with God.

Skills can be
taught, but if
character is lacking,
skills are irrelevant.

You can lead others to learn and live God’s Word. Ask yourself if you have the basic traits listed below. If you do, you are positioned well to be used by God to help others grow in their understanding of God’s Word and how to live it out daily. Skills can be taught; character is something you already possess.

Faithfulness

The apostle Paul took young Timothy under his wing and invested in him. In Paul’s second letter to Timothy, he told this young pastor how to advance the gospel. The “formula” was not difficult to remember. Paul instructed Timothy to take the Word of God that Paul had spoken in his presence and to pass it along to “faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). Note that Paul did not

tell Timothy to look for charismatic leaders who already had lots of followers. Instead, the single characteristic Timothy was to look for in those who would join him in preaching and teaching the Scriptures was faithfulness.

What does it mean to be a faithful follower of Christ? In short, it means you do what you say you will do. It means you

God wants faithful people to join Him in advancing the gospel. If people are faithful, they can learn the skills needed to be an effective leader.

show up when others do not. It means you are steady in your trust in Christ alone as your Savior. It means others can count on you. Even though you may not feel like you have the gifts and experience to guide a group Bible study, do not despair. If God wanted outstanding, world-class communicators, He would have instructed Timothy to look for that kind of person. He did not. Instead, God wants faithful people to join Him in advancing the gospel. If people are

faithful, they can learn the skills needed to be effective leaders.

Humility

Humility is another characteristic group leaders need. It has been said that humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. I like that definition. It captures the idea that humble people realize their fallen condition, the depth of their sin, and the incredibly deep grace that saved them. Humble people look for ways to serve others, and they put others first. In Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, He

reminded us, “Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth” (Matt. 5:5).

Humility was a quality Jesus possessed. In Philippians 2:8 we are told that Jesus “humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.” James, the half brother of Jesus, encouraged first-century Christians to consider the benefits of humility when he reminded them, “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). Humble people realize how much Jesus has done for them to save them from the penalty of their sins. Humble people serve because Jesus first served them.

Good Reputation

I am sure you know several people who have a good reputation in your church, workplace, or community. A reputation is the sum of a person’s words and actions. It is who they really are. If you are looking for an auto mechanic, you want someone known for his good work.

Luke reported that when the early church found itself in a predicament, unable to meet the needs of widows, a plan was formed to enlist men from within the church. “Brothers and sisters, select from among you seven men of good reputation” (Acts 6:3). If you have a good reputation, God can use you as a Bible study leader.

Financial Integrity

Moses found himself in a difficult position. Scripture records that he alone judged the people, and they stood around him from morning until night waiting for him to hear their cases. On most days, people went away without having their cases heard because there were just too many cases for one man to judge. Moses’s father-in-law Jethro arrived on

the scene in Exodus 18 and offered Moses some great advice: “But you should select from all the people able men, God-fearing, trustworthy, and *hating dishonest profit*. Place them over the people as commanders of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens” (Exod. 18:21, emphasis added).

It is no surprise that Moses selected leaders who were God-fearing and trustworthy, but Jethro added another qualifier: “hating dishonest profit.” This was important for people who would soon be in positions to judge cases. They would need to have a strong moral compass that could say no to bribes. Financial integrity is important for God’s leaders today as well. We must act generously toward those who have financial needs, pay our debts, manage resources, and pay our employees. We should avoid even the appearance of evil. Many ministries have been ruined by the love of money.

God-Fearer

Solomon was the wisest man ever to walk the earth. He asked God for wisdom to lead his people, and God granted that request. When Solomon wrote the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, he compared the ways of unbelievers and God-fearers when he wrote, “Although a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, I also know that it will go well with God-fearing people, for they are reverent before him” (Eccles. 8:12).

The fear of God is seen in Scripture as a healthy reverence and respect for Him. It is a realization on the part of God’s highest creation, man, that although he was made a little lower than angels, he is not God. God is perfect, powerful, and mighty. God-fearing believers realize how precariously they were perched before God rescued them. He saved them from an eternity apart from Him. God’s people fear Him but not because they are afraid of Him, nor are they

fearful of experiencing His wrath. Rather, God's people fear Him because they realize the magnitude of His great power.

Imperfect People

Perhaps this is the best news of all. God uses imperfect people to accomplish His will. He can even use people whose character is deeply flawed. In our weakness His strength is made perfect. No pastor, Sunday school teacher, deacon, or committee member has ever been perfect. Only one man in history can claim that honor, and His name is Jesus. If you have ever said to yourself, *I've failed too much for God to use me*, then you are exactly the kind of person He often chooses. Consider the people He used throughout the Bible to accomplish His will. None were perfect. Some were far from it:

- Moses was a drunk.
- Jonah ran from God.
- Elijah was depressed and wanted to die.
- Rahab was a prostitute.
- David was a murderer and an adulterer.
- Peter denied knowing Jesus and ran away at a crucial moment.

The fear of God is seen in Scripture as a healthy reverence and respect for Him. It is a realization on the part of God's highest creation, man, that although he was made a little lower than angels, he is not God.

- Paul was the archenemy of the church, a persecutor, and a murderer.
- And there are countless others!

If we want people to learn and live God's Word, they will need group leaders to guide them. No group leader will ever be perfect, but God will use people whose hearts are committed to him (2 Chron. 16:9). As you grow as a disciple, you can help others walk that same spiritual pathway. You do not have to be perfect.

What Signs of Growth Should I See?

My grandson Logan is now three and a half years old. Before he was born, he captivated our hearts. As a baby, he cooed and smiled when we babbled. And yes, he also ate, spit up, burped, slept, and did all the things infants do in their first months of life.

When he made it to three and a half years, he was much different. He did not look the same as he did three years prior. His vocabulary has grown tremendously. When he finds something funny, he throws his head back and laughs, smiling from ear to ear. He puts sentences together and conveys his thoughts. He has learned some nice motor skills and can swing a plastic golf club, throw balls, run, jump, play on his swing set, and feed himself. He has learned to recite his ABCs and count numbers in order. He's learned his name, his birthday, and the name of the town in which he lives. He has even learned a little mischief along the way. I know Logan is maturing because I can *see* that he is maturing. I can point to specific things he is able to do that he could not do a few years ago.

In a similar way, God's people show signs of growth. There are research-validated indicators, "signposts" if you

will, that a believer is growing and maturing in Christ. These signposts of discipleship are much like trail signs in the woods. When you go for a hike, you see signposts that tell you how far you are from the next significant place on the trail. The signposts help you know that you are making progress, that you are still on the right path.

As stated earlier, attendance is one way to measure a Bible study group. In fact, attendance has been the primary measurement on the old scorecard for groups. But what if group leaders began asking, “Are my group members growing as disciples?” What if group leaders looked to see if their teaching was making a difference in people’s lives as seen through the spiritual growth of the group members? The Great Commission tells us to make disciples, and one sign we are successful is that they learn to obey (Matt. 28:18–20).

Signposts of Discipleship

What if it were possible to know if Christians were making progress in their walks with Jesus? The Transformational Discipleship project discovered how believers grow. It was the largest research project about discipleship ever undertaken. Conducted by Lifeway Research, the Transformational Discipleship project discovered that disciples grow and mature in eight key areas. In the original research, these were known as the eight attributes of discipleship. Today we like referring to these as the eight signposts of discipleship.

Dr. Philip Nation, who coauthored the book *Transformational Discipleship* with Michael Kelley and Eric Geiger, had these helpful words to say about the eight attributes (signposts) of discipleship.

In the church, our work is to see disciples made. But can you really “measure” discipleship? A strong case can be made that it is ludicrous to measure transformation in a person’s

life. Nevertheless, there are biblical injunctions that halt our progress into sin and prescriptions that lead us toward spiritual maturity. In the Transformational Discipleship project, we did not set out to randomly create objective measurements against which a person's life would be deemed infantile, growing, or mature. We did, however, uncover attributes that indicate growth and/or the desire that growth is occurring. The research revealed eight issues we named the "Attributes of Discipleship." They are not new ideas necessarily, but they stand out as key ideas in the lives of Protestants in North America.

Bible Engagement. It should go without saying that believers will be engaged in the study of the Scriptures. Leadership, however, must often begin with the restatement of the obvious. Transformation can be recognized in a person when their mind is sharpened by the Bible, their perspective is shaped by the Bible, and their actions are directed by the Bible.

Obeying God and Denying Self. Discipleship is the process of obedience to one who is in authority over you. In our study, we found that people progressing in their faith are the ones who prioritize God's desires over self-will. Transformation can be seen in them because they progressively set aside earthly delights for kingdom priorities.

Serving God and Others. Just as Jesus said that He had come to serve and not be served, so must believers. The choice to serve others is just that . . . a choice. It highlights a maturity

of soul that we allow the needs of others to trump our own needs. Transformation is evident when personal needs, and even dreams, are set aside for the needs we see in others.

Sharing Christ. Inherent to being a disciple of Christ is the making of other disciple-makers for Christ. Even with the need to live out the effects of the gospel, maturing believers know that speaking about the message is a necessity. Transformation is evident when we talk about the source of it.

Exercising Faith. Can you measure a person's faith? Probably not. But you can see it when it is put into action. Believers participating in the research noted that they knew the importance of living by faith as opposed to by personal strength. Transformation is seen in believers when risk-aversion is set aside, and our lives are characterized by faithful obedience to God's will.

Seeking God. A person becomes a disciple of Christ because they intend to follow Him and become like Him. A continuous hunger should arise from this life. It is referred to in Scripture as our "first love," and believers are commanded at times to return to it. Transformation is seen when our desire is to know God more deeply and experience His work more fully.

Building Relationships. Our faith is personal, but it is not intended to be private. Jesus established the church for our collective good

and our collective growth. After all, humans are relational by nature. As believers, our horizontal relationships should develop just as our vertical relationship with God does. Transformation is occurring when relational maturity is evident in our lives.

Unashamed. From previous studies, “unashamed” was new to our list, but we were not surprised by its appearance in the research. It is natural to think that a person following Christ would be willing to publicize such a matter. The research noted that believers felt it appropriate, and even necessary, for others to know them as Christians and be held accountable for a life exemplary of that name. Transformation is evident when a believer is unashamed in presenting their own life as being aligned with Christ.¹

As we consider the first measurement of groups, *Learn and obey God’s Word*, we must ask an initial question: “Are group members showing signs of maturing in Christ?” Are people in our groups:

- *Engaging with their Bibles?* Are group members engaging in daily quiet times and personal daily studies? Is God speaking to group members as they spend time in His Word?
- *Obedying God and denying self?* Are people living for God or for themselves?
- *Serving God and others?* Are people leaving the group to become leaders in other

ministries in the church? Do they meet the needs of people in their community?

- *Sharing Christ?* Are people in Bible study groups sharing their testimonies and the gospel with others?
- *Exercising faith?* Are people faithfully following God's will instead of living in fear and being risk averse?
- *Seeking God?* Are people attending the group? Participating in worship? Plugging into the life of the church? Participating in discipleship courses and mentoring relationships?
- *Building relationships?* How deep are the relationships group members have with one another? With fellow church members? With people far from God spiritually?
- *Living unashamed?* Are group members reticent about letting others know they follow Jesus, or are they proud to be Christian?

Creating the New Scorecard for Groups

As we wrap up this chapter, let's start creating a new scorecard for groups that measures more than just attendance. When I play a round of golf, I keep my score on my own scorecard (they are designed for up to four people to track their scores during a round). I keep track of my score on each hole, but below that line I write FIR, GIR, Putts, and SS (sand save) on the remaining lines where I would normally track the scores of the group. This way I can look after the round is over and see which area of my game needs the most improvement. Then it's off to the practice area before I head home.

The first goal of a group is to *Learn and Obey God's Word*. Learning God's Word should lead to living God's Word. How is your group doing? Be honest! Based on the eight signposts of discipleship we just read, would you say your people are walking the discipleship pathway? Are they growing as disciples? Can you see the eight signposts of discipleship in their daily lives? Rate your group below. I realize you may have people in your group who are growing and others who are not growing as much. Think about the group *as a whole*: Are the members showing evidence of the eight signposts in their walks with Jesus? What grade would you give them?

NEW SCORECARD FOR GROUPS					
		GRADE			
	LEARN AND OBEY GOD'S WORD	A	B	C	D
1	Are group members growing as disciples?				
2					
3					
4					

In the chapters ahead, we will add to this scorecard, and we will ultimately have a new one that will evaluate a Bible study group by asking sixteen different questions. Remember, we are looking at four main measurements of groups with four questions related to each one that will help us determine if Bible study groups are postured for success.

Main Ideas

1. There is more to measuring the success of a Bible study group than just the attendance of the members. Attendance

is important but not necessarily the way to observe the health of a group.

2. People need group leaders to help them learn and apply God's Word. It is important not only to teach the Bible accurately but also to help people rightly apply it to life.

3. God uses imperfect group leaders to guide His people. God desires group leaders to be people who are righteous (not perfect but saved) and striving to be people of good character and reputation. The skills that are needed to teach and lead will be learned along the way.

Questions for Discussion

1. Besides attendance, how do group leaders, group members, and others evaluate the effectiveness of Bible study groups?
2. Why do we often view attendance as the primary measurement for group health?
3. If group leaders and group members began using spiritual maturity as a measurement, how might that change the overall nature of groups?

To-Do List

1. Evaluate yourself using the eight signposts of discipleship. Which ones are present in your walk with Christ?
2. Among those signposts, pick two that you rated lower than the others. What practical steps can you take to strengthen these as you move forward?

3. Review the characteristics of people God has used to lead His people. Which one is your greatest characteristic? Which is the weakest? How could you make the weakest characteristic a stronger part of who you are in Christ? What changes need to be made?

A CHURCH WITHOUT DISCIPLESHIP IS JUST A GATHERING.

It is an important distinction that many pastors and leaders have known for years. In leading their churches well, pastors have provided a trustworthy curriculum, enlisted gifted teachers, and have made sure to offer times for members to gather and fellowship with each other. However, amid all these gatherings, one question kept popping up among leaders, **“How do we know if what we are doing is working?”**

Over the years, leaders have tried to answer this question with numbers. If people attended these groups and seemed to enjoy the material, then they must be finding success. Ken Braddy, the director of Sunday school for Lifeway Christian Resources, felt that there had to be a better way to measure what matters. In *Breakthrough*, **Ken guides leaders to measure their groups by observing if they are discipling each other, if they are caring for others in and outside of their group, and if they are engaging in acts of service.** *Breakthrough* offers a new scorecard for leaders to not only track the progress of their groups but measure their success.



KEN BRADDY is the director of Sunday school for Lifeway Christian Resources and has managed ongoing Bible studies for adults over the past decade. Ken has served on three church staffs as a discipleship pastor. His first church began as a mission with forty-four people in groups on launch day, and grew to more than twenty-four hundred members, becoming the fastest growing Sunday school in Texas. He led a Nashville area church to become the fastest growing Sunday school in Tennessee by percentage growth. Ken has trained thousands of Bible study leaders all over the country.

Ken blogs weekly about Sunday school and small groups. He has authored or compiled seven books on the topic and has written numerous articles for *Facts & Trends* magazine, *Outreach.com*, *ChurchLeader.com*, and *Lifeway Voices*. His six-session Bible study in the *Bible Studies for Life* series was studied by 1.6M adults and teens.

Ken and his wife Tammy have been married thirty-five years, have two grown sons, one daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.

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