

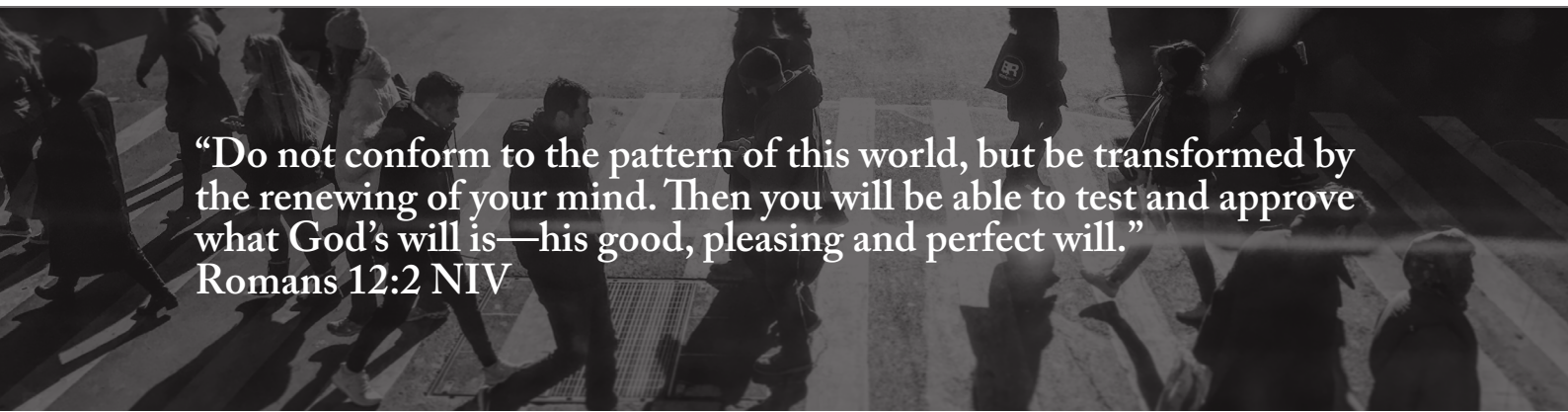
A group of people are sitting on the floor in a circle, engaged in reading and discussion. One person in the center wears an orange t-shirt and holds an open book. To their left, a person in a white shirt and dark pants also holds an open book. In the foreground, a person's hands are clasped together. Another person on the right holds a tablet. The scene is warmly lit, suggesting an indoor setting with a patterned rug. The text "Culture of Small Groups." is overlaid in the center in a white serif font.

# Culture of Small Groups.



# Definition of culture:

*The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.*



**“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”**  
Romans 12:2 NIV

## Leading Culture

- Leaders lead the culture, and then the culture leads the people.
- Culture is only set in consistency. Great leaders lead culture, good leaders maintain culture.
- A desired culture must be clearly articulated.
- Barriers to this culture must be called out (in the leader first).
- Conviction → repentance → renewal. We must embody what we want to see in our members.
- The process of cultural change must start and be demonstrated by the leader.
- The culture of your group starts with prayer – **“So let’s talk to Jesus about people, before we talk to people about Jesus.”** - John Gray.

*“Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.” Psalm 127:1 NIV*

## Ownership

- Everyone committed to the group goals including high attendance.
- Everyone fulfils a specific role.
- They talk about “our group” not the leader’s group.

*Timothy Keller from ‘The Prodigal Son’: “You can’t live a Christian life without a band of Christian friends, without a family of believers in which you find a place.”*

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Michael Brierley – adapted from:

- ‘Growth Groups’ by Colin Marshall – Matthias Media 2003.

- Generation Leadership Coaching Module 1 – Our Culture – Sam Haywood

# Participation

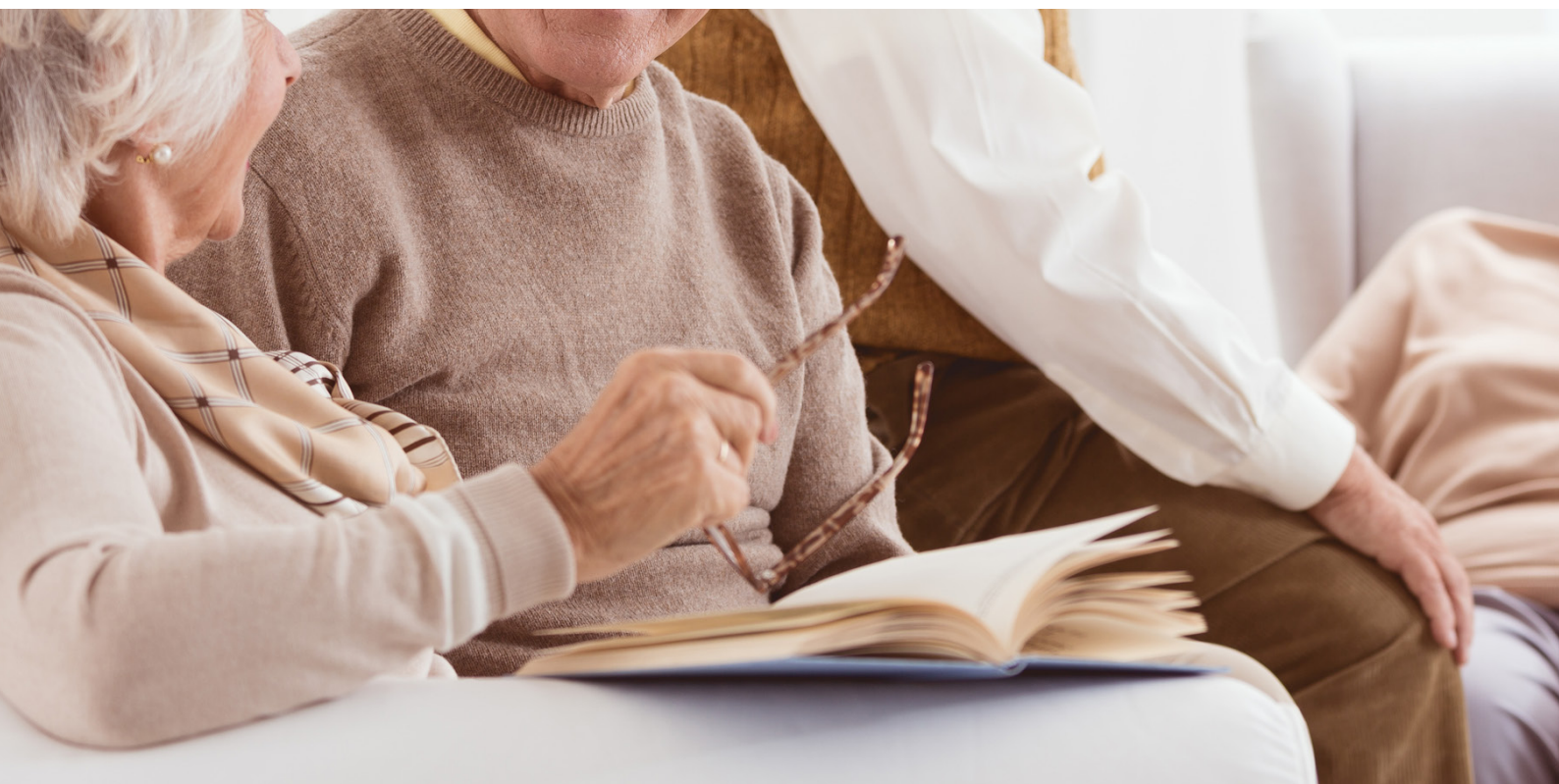
- Be present means turning up and being engaged when we are there. We are a family and that means we are present for one another because it is not all about us, it is all about Jesus and our community.
- Everyone participating in what level they feel comfortable.
- No one dominating conversation.
- Avoid long two way conversations with others just observing.
- Clear group discussion etiquette
  - Allow people time to speak
  - Don't brazenly interrupt or talk over someone

*"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ". Galatians 6:2 NIV*

# Openness

- Emotions are expressed in the group.
- Honest struggles with biblical applications to life.
- Honest prayers.
- Acceptance of different personalities.
- Acceptance of biblical rebuke.
- The deeper our presence with one another, specifically spurring one another along in pursuit of Christ, the deeper we will see and know Jesus.
- Knowing Jesus is a community project, not an individual pursuit.

*"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ....Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:12,27. NIV*





# Service

- Tasks are shared by group members based on their gifts
- Does the leader enable gifts amongst the group:
  - Encourager      -Devil's advocate
  - Peacemaker      -Comedian
  - Empathiser      -Carer
  - Initiator      -Administrator
  - Summariser

# Achievement

- Members are conscious of their own growth.
- Aims of the bible study are met but doesn't weaken relational aspects of the group.
- Balance of bible study, prayer, care and fellowship.

# Physical setting

- Lighting
- Seating arrangements
- Eliminating other distracting noises
- Supper
- Tea/Coffee etc

