

Annotated Bibliography on Community Groups

Dieter Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. New York: HarperOne, 1954.

Bonhoeffer offers a theological vision for Christian community rooted in Christ's mediating presence rather than personal preference or emotional closeness. Drawing from his experience in intentional Christian living, he explores practices such as shared Scripture, prayer, confession, and service. Evangelical small groups frequently use this work to establish a biblical understanding of community and to guard against unrealistic or individualistic expectations.

Cloud, Henry, and John Townsend. *Boundaries*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.

Boundaries applies biblical truth to relational health, emphasizing responsibility, freedom, and love within Christian relationships. In community group settings, the book helps participants navigate conflict, emotional dependency, and healthy limits. Its practical examples and discussion-friendly structure make it a common choice for groups seeking stronger, more sustainable relationships.

Donahue, Bill, and Russ Robinson. *Building a Church of Small Groups*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Donahue and Robinson present a comprehensive strategy for integrating small groups into the mission and structure of the local church. While written primarily for church leaders, the book offers valuable insights for group facilitators regarding leadership development, group health, and long-term sustainability. It is often used to help churches transition toward a group-centered ministry model.

Eggerichs, Emerson. *Love & Respect*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004.

Focusing on biblical principles of communication and honor, *Love & Respect* is widely used in marriage-focused community groups. Eggerichs addresses common relational breakdowns and provides practical tools for fostering understanding and connection. The book's clear concepts and accessible format make it suitable for discussion in mixed adult or couples-based groups.

Frazee, Randy. *The Connecting Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Frazee emphasizes that spiritual growth happens best through relational connection rather than passive participation. He argues for a church culture centered on small groups as the primary environment for discipleship and care. Evangelical churches often use this book to reinforce the importance of community groups as spaces for transformation and belonging.

Musgrove, Jared, and Justin Elafros. *A Short Guide to Groups: The Art of Leading Community*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2023.

This concise and practical guide addresses the relational and spiritual dynamics of leading healthy groups. Musgrove and Elafros focus on cultivating presence, trust, and meaningful conversation rather than rigid programming. The book is especially helpful for new or volunteer leaders seeking a theologically grounded yet accessible approach to facilitating Christian community.

Surratt, Chris. *Leading Small Groups: How to Gather, Launch, Lead, and Multiply Your Small Group*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

Surratt provides a step-by-step framework for starting and sustaining effective small groups within the local church. Covering topics such as recruiting members, developing leaders, and multiplying groups, the book is highly practical and ministry-oriented. It is frequently used as a training resource for evangelical community group leaders and coaches.