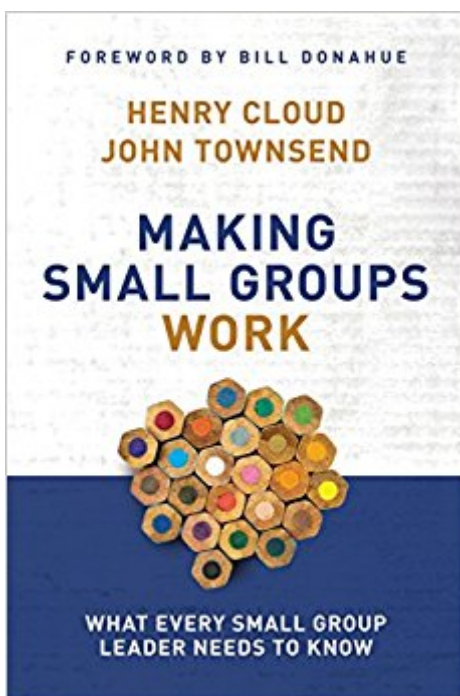


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# Making Small Groups Work: What Every Small Group Leader Needs To Know



## Synopsis

Lead small groups through astounding growth with principles from the best-selling books *How People Grow* and *Boundaries*. No matter what need brings a group of people together—•from marriage enrichment to divorce recovery, from grief recovery to spiritual formation—•members are part of a small group because they want to grow. This book by psychologists Henry Cloud and John Townsend provides small-group leaders with valuable guidance and information on how they can help their groups to grow spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. With insights from their best-selling book *How People Grow*, Cloud and Townsend show how God—•s plan for growth is made up of three key elements: grace plus truth plus time. When groups embrace those elements, they find God—•s grace and forgiveness and learn how to handle their imperfections without shame as they model God—•s love and support to one another. In addition to describing what makes small groups work, *Leading Small Groups That Help People Grow* explains the roles and responsibilities of both leaders and group members. Employing tenets from the book *How People Grow*, this book equips leaders to understand the ins and outs of how to promote growth, and using principles from their best-selling book *Boundaries*, they show how to identify and find solutions for common problems such as boredom, noncompliance, passivity, aggression, narcissism, spiritualization, over-neediness, over-giving, and nonstop talking.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lead small groups through astounding growth with principles from the best-selling books *How*

People Grow and Boundaries. No matter what need brings a group of people together---from marriage enrichment to divorce recovery, from grief recovery to spiritual formation---members are part of a small group because they want to grow. This book by psychologists Henry Cloud and John Townsend provides small-group leaders with valuable guidance and information on how they can help their groups to grow spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. With insights from their best-selling book *How People Grow*, Cloud and Townsend show how God's plan for growth is made up of three key elements: grace plus truth plus time. When groups embrace those elements, they find God's grace and forgiveness and learn how to handle their imperfections without shame as they model God's love and support to one another. In addition to describing what makes small groups work, *Leading Small Groups That Help People Grow* explains the roles and responsibilities of both leaders and group members. Employing tenets from the book *How People Grow*, this book equips leaders to understand the ins and outs of how to promote growth, and using principles from their best-selling book *Boundaries*, they show how to identify and find solutions for common problems such as boredom, noncompliance, passivity, aggression, narcissism, spiritualization, over-neediness, over-giving, and nonstop talking.

Dr. Henry Cloud is an acclaimed leadership expert, psychologist, and New York Times best-selling author with his books selling more than 10 million copies. As a speaker, Dr. Cloud has shared the stage with many business and global leaders and experts, such as Tony Blair, Jack Welch, Condoleezza Rice, Desmond Tutu, Malala Yousafzai, and others. In his leadership consulting practice, Dr. Cloud works with Fortune 500 companies and smaller private businesses alike. He has an extensive executive coaching background and experience as a leadership consultant, devoting the majority of his time working with CEO's, leadership teams and executives to improve performance, leadership skills, and culture. Dr. Cloud lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Tori, and their two daughters, Olivia and Lucy. ~ ~ Dr. John Townsend is a leadership consultant, psychologist, and New York Times bestselling author. He has written twenty-seven books, selling 10 million copies, including the 3 million-selling *Boundaries* series. John is founder of the Townsend Institute for Leadership and Counseling and conducts the Townsend Leadership program. He travels extensively for corporate consulting, speaking, and working with leadership families. He and his wife Barbi have two sons, and live in Newport Beach, California. One of John's favorite hobbies is playing in a band that performs in Southern California lounges and venues. ~ ~

This book is a good blend of psychology and Bible. I have long been a fan of Townsend and Cloud

and was eager to get this book. It did not disappoint. They make psychological principles accessible to the average Joe and apply them in the context of small group life. Very helpful. Highly recommended for anyone who leads a small group. Josh Hunt Teach Like Jesus

Making Small Groups Work serves as a comprehensive guidebook for leaders seeking to foster a culture of holistic spiritual growth in the context of community. Chapters are short, to the point, and filled with information that is not only theologically and biblically grounded, but also intensely practical and couched in the context of real life examples. This should be required reading for anyone seeking to plant a church, launch a new small group ministry, or simply become more competent in developing mature disciples of Christ. Excellent resource - five stars.

This book explains how to define a purpose for forming a small group. It explains how a divorce recovery small group is different from a Bible Study small group. There are suggestions on how to deal with an overly talkative member. There are suggestions on how to deal with one person constantly interrupting other members while they are talking. There are suggestions on how to get the discussion back on topic after it has drifted off on a tangent. It shows how to develop ground rules for the group. The steps are simple and practical.

This 2003 book has been updated and simplified by Cloud, Townsend and Bill Donahue in a video series and book by the same title. This older text does contain insights not included in the newer edition, but the newer edition is better organized for use by a small group trying to strengthen itself.

I love anything by Henry Cloud. This book was no exception. I think he nails the problem right on the head. We have too many groups out there that are great places to attend but many of them don't demand change from the members. (This leaves them empty and then they go back to their old patterns) The other type of groups may offer strong biblical truth but perhaps in such a "religious" way that they don't allow room for transparency and honesty from their members. (this can breed hypocrisy from the few who will even bother to return!) Henry and John explain how to find balance and they also offer over 2 dozen chapters on line-by-line issues in groups and how to address them. Check it out for yourself! Blessings, Jeff Ludy -The Ark Family Church in Conroe, TX

I really enjoyed the practical phrases that the book suggests to use in the group, the insights are very useful and helped my group to be vulnerable and desire to be real. I believe many people need

somewhere to start and this is a good place.

I purchased this book to help provide guidelines for support group leaders and found it to provide lots of helpful tips. While I didn't agree with everything, I found most of it to be helpful, especially the last section on dealing with problems in small groups. As usual, these authors put out quality work.

Henry Cloud hits it out of the park again with this book. Leading a small group is not for the faint of heart. It requires hard work, dedication and continued prayer. It also should require this excellent resource if you want to do it well.

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