



BUGEMA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
COURSE MODULE
CHRISTIAN WITNESSING AND SMALL GROUP DYNAMICS

Biblical, Adventist, Missional, Discipleship and Small-Group Foundations

A self-instructional undergraduate course module

Course Code: RELP 1103

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PREFACE

Christian Witnessing and Small Group Dynamics is a course which has been developed as a self-instructional module for learners preparing to participate in Christian mission, personal evangelism, discipleship, small-group ministry, lay leadership, pastoral ministry, campus ministry, and community transformation.

The course brings together two complementary dimensions of Christian mission. The first is **Christian witnessing**-the Spirit-empowered task of bearing witness to Jesus Christ through proclamation, testimony, Christian character, service, discipleship, and mission. The second is **small-group dynamics**-the development of relational Christian communities in which believers experience fellowship, spiritual nurture, prayer, Bible study, accountability, evangelism, leadership development, and multiplication.

The Christian witnessing component is principally informed by James Park's *Transforming Adventist Mission: A Practical Workbook on the Holy Spirit, Biblical Conversion, Discipleship and Mission*. Park's work places the Holy Spirit, biblical conversion, discipleship, witness, and mission within an integrated framework of spiritual transformation. His material presents mission not merely as an activity of the church but as an expression of the transformed disciple's relationship with Christ. Park's published description likewise emphasizes conversion, discipleship, community, communion, and commission as interconnected dimensions of fruitful Christian life.

The small-group component draws substantially on John Mallison's *The Small-Group Leader: A Manual to Develop Vital Small Groups*. Mallison approaches small groups as practical environments for Christian growth, caring relationships, Bible study, prayer, evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development. His manual was designed as a practical guide emerging from extensive experience in Christian small-group ministry.

The two dimensions are deliberately integrated. **Witness without relationship can become impersonal proclamation; relationship without witness can become inward fellowship.** Christian small groups provide relational environments where people can encounter Christ, grow as disciples, learn to witness, receive pastoral care, and participate in mission.

The course therefore moves from **conversion to discipleship, from discipleship to witness, from witness to community, and from community to multiplication and mission.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION, RATIONALE AND COMPETENCIES

Course Description

Christian Witnessing and Small Group Dynamics is an introductory and applied study of the biblical, theological, Adventist, spiritual, relational, missional, and practical foundations of Christian witnessing and small-group ministry. The course examines the nature and purpose of Christian witness, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, biblical conversion, discipleship, personal testimony, relational evangelism, contextual mission, and the role of the church in God's mission.

The course also introduces learners to the nature, purpose, development, leadership, facilitation, care, evangelistic function, Bible-study practices, prayer dynamics, conflict management, multiplication, and evaluation of Christian small groups.

Special attention is given to the relationship between **conversion, discipleship, community, witness, and mission.**

Course Rationale

The church exists within a missionary context. Christians are called not merely to believe the gospel but to embody, proclaim, teach, and reproduce the gospel through their lives and relationships.

Christian witnessing therefore requires more than knowledge of evangelistic techniques. Effective witness grows from a transformed life, dependence upon the Holy Spirit, biblical understanding, Christ-centred identity, authentic relationships, cultural sensitivity, and a willingness to participate in God's mission.

Likewise, small groups should not be viewed merely as alternative meetings or organizational structures. They can become environments where people encounter Christ, experience Christian community, study Scripture, pray, receive care, develop leadership, serve others, and become witnesses themselves.

Marrison's work emphasizes the practical development of vital groups, including leadership, relationships, evangelism, Bible study, prayer, caring for new Christians, and evaluation.

The course therefore seeks to move learners from **information to transformation, from transformation to participation, and from participation to multiplication.**

Course Competencies

By completing this course, learners should develop competence in:

1. Interpreting the biblical and theological foundations of Christian witnessing, discipleship, evangelism, mission, and small-group ministry.

2. Explaining and applying the role of the Holy Spirit in conversion, discipleship, Christian witness, evangelism, and mission.
3. Developing and communicating authentic, Christ-centred, and contextually appropriate Christian witness and gospel presentations.
4. Establishing and developing healthy, caring, accountable, and mission-oriented Christian small groups.
5. Demonstrating effective small-group leadership through participatory Bible study, prayer, facilitation, pastoral care, and relational ministry.
6. Managing interpersonal relationships and group dynamics, including conflict resolution, accountability, leadership development, and multiplication of small groups.
7. Designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating integrated small-group ministries that advance evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, and the mission of the church.

Course Objectives

The course seeks to:

1. Provide a biblical and Adventist theological foundation for Christian witnessing, discipleship, and mission.
2. Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in Christian conversion, transformation, discipleship, witnessing, and mission.
3. Develop learners' competence in personal, relational, public, and contextual Christian witnessing and evangelism.
4. Introduce learners to the biblical and contemporary foundations, principles, and practices of small-group ministry.
5. Develop competent and spiritually mature small-group leaders with skills in facilitation, communication, Bible study, prayer, fellowship, conflict management, discipleship, and multiplication.
6. Equip learners to integrate witnessing and small-group ministry into the mission of the local church through the design, implementation, and evaluation of a supervised ministry project.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, learners should be able to:

1. Explain the biblical and Adventist theological foundations of Christian witnessing, discipleship, and mission.
2. Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in Christian conversion, transformation, discipleship, witnessing, and mission.
3. Demonstrate competence in personal, relational, public, and contextual Christian witnessing and evangelism.
4. Explain and apply the biblical and contemporary principles and practices of small-group ministry.

5. Demonstrate competent and spiritually mature small-group leadership through effective facilitation, communication, Bible study, prayer, fellowship, conflict management, discipleship, and multiplication.
6. Design, implement, and evaluate a supervised witnessing or small-group ministry project that contributes to the mission of the local church.

HOW TO USE THIS MODULE

This module is written to function as a self-instructional learning resource. Each unit begins with an overview, objectives, learning outcomes, study information, key terms, and a biblical anchor. The main content then develops the theological and practical issues before concluding with biblical and Adventist integration and a unit summary.

The structure follows the sample module provided, in which learners are expected to engage the material independently, complete guided activities, maintain a learning journal, and compile practical work into a continuous assessment portfolio.

1. Read the unit overview, objectives, and learning outcomes before beginning each unit.
2. Maintain a **Witnessing and Small-Group Learning Journal**.
3. Record biblical insights, personal reflections, ministry observations, questions, and applications.
4. Complete the guided activities within each unit.
5. Practise witnessing and small-group skills rather than merely reading about them.
6. Conduct the required practical assignments in a real or simulated ministry context.
7. At the end of every module, complete the three integrated assessment questions.
8. Relate examples to the local church, campus, community, district, conference, and cultural context.
9. Consult the lecturer or ministry supervisor where a ministry situation exceeds your competence.
10. Compile all assessed work into one continuous portfolio.

ASSESSMENT PLAN

Assessment is designed to test theological knowledge, biblical interpretation, spiritual maturity, practical witnessing competence, small-group leadership, ministry judgement, relational skills, and reflective integration.

Component	Description	Weight
Continuous Assessment Portfolio	Module deliverables, witnessing exercises, small-group activities, case studies, practical project, reflection and supervisor verification	50%
End-of-Semester Examination	Integrated application of Christian witnessing and small-group dynamics	50%
Total		100%

MODULE AND UNIT OUTLINE

MODULE ONE: BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN WITNESSING

Unit 1: The Meaning, Nature and Purpose of Christian Witnessing

Unit 2: The Holy Spirit, Conversion and the Transformed Witness

Unit 3: Discipleship, Witness and the Mission of God

MODULE TWO: PRACTICE OF CHRISTIAN WITNESSING

Unit 4: Personal Testimony and Relational Witness

Unit 5: Communicating the Gospel in Diverse Contexts

Unit 6: Service, Evangelism and Contextual Mission

MODULE THREE: FOUNDATIONS OF SMALL GROUP DYNAMICS

Unit 7: Biblical Theology and Nature of Christian Small Groups

Unit 8: The Purpose, Types and Life Cycle of Small Groups

Unit 9: Building Community, Fellowship and Christian Relationships

MODULE FOUR: SMALL-GROUP LEADERSHIP AND FACILITATION

Unit 10: The Small-Group Leader: Character, Calling and Competence

Unit 11: Communication, Participation and Group Facilitation

Unit 12: Bible Study, Prayer and Spiritual Formation in Small Groups

MODULE FIVE: SMALL GROUPS FOR CARE, EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

Unit 13: Caring for People and New Christians in Small Groups

Unit 14: Evangelistic Small Groups and Missional Communities

Unit 15: Conflict, Evaluation and Healthy Group Dynamics

MODULE SIX: MULTIPLICATION, MISSION AND PRACTICUM

Unit 16: Developing Leaders and Multiplying Small Groups

Unit 17: Integrating Witnessing, Discipleship and Small-Group Ministry

Unit 18: Ministry Practicum: Designing, Implementing and Evaluating a Small Group

MODULE ONE: BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN WITNESSING

UNIT 1: THE MEANING, NATURE AND PURPOSE OF CHRISTIAN WITNESSING

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit establishes the theological vocabulary for Christian witnessing. It examines witnessing as bearing testimony to Jesus Christ through life, word, character, service, and participation in God's mission.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Define Christian witnessing biblically.
2. Explain the relationship between witness and discipleship.
3. Identify the major dimensions of Christian witness.
4. Distinguish authentic witness from religious activity.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Give a biblical definition of Christian witnessing.
2. Explain why every Christian disciple is called to witness.
3. Develop a personal theology of witness.
4. Evaluate whether a ministry activity genuinely constitutes Christian witness.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: James Park, *Transforming Adventist Mission*

Key terms: witness, testimony, evangelism, discipleship, mission, proclamation, incarnation, transformation, Holy Spirit

Biblical anchor: Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18–20; Isaiah 43:10–12; 1 Peter 3:15

1. Introduction

Christian witnessing is not simply an evangelistic technique. It is the natural expression of a life that has encountered, trusted, followed, and been transformed by Jesus Christ.

The biblical witness does not merely communicate information about God. The witness testifies to what God has done, is doing, and will do.

2. Main Content

2.1 The meaning of witness

The biblical concept of witnessing involves testimony based upon experience, knowledge, conviction, and encounter.

A witness does not create the truth. The witness points to the truth.

The Christian witness therefore points away from self and toward Christ.

2.2 Witness as identity

Jesus told His disciples:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.”

Witness is therefore connected with Christian identity.

The question is not simply, “**When should I witness?**”

It is also:

“**What kind of person am I becoming as Christ's witness?**”

2.3 Witness in word and life

Christian witness has at least five dimensions:

1. **Character** – the witness of Christian life.
2. **Testimony** – communicating personal experience of Christ.
3. **Proclamation** – explaining the gospel.
4. **Service** – demonstrating Christlike love.
5. **Discipleship** – helping others follow Christ.

A witness who speaks about Christ but contradicts Christ's character weakens the credibility of the message.

2.4 Witness and mission

Christian witnessing participates in God's mission rather than replacing it.

God is the initiator of mission. The church participates in the mission of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Park's approach emphasizes this transformational relationship between spiritual conversion, discipleship, community, and mission. His published material describes fruitful discipleship through the integration of Scripture, prayer, witness, small-group participation, and corporate worship.

2.5 The Adventist understanding of witness

Seventh-day Adventist witnessing is Christ-centred, Bible-based, Spirit-empowered, mission-oriented, and eschatologically conscious.

The Adventist witness proclaims:

- salvation through Jesus Christ;
- the authority of Scripture;
- the gospel of the kingdom;
- the commandments of God;
- the Sabbath;
- Christ's high-priestly ministry;
- the Second Coming;
- the three angels' messages;
- Christian stewardship;
- health and wholeness;
- compassionate service;
- preparation for Christ's return.

These doctrines should not be presented as detached propositions. They should be integrated within the larger story of God's redemptive mission.

3. Biblical and Adventist Integration

1. Acts 1:8 identifies the Holy Spirit as the source of witnessing power.
2. Matthew 28:18–20 connects witness with disciple-making.
3. Isaiah 43 presents God's people as witnesses to His character and saving acts.
4. Christian witness must unite truth, character, relationship, and mission.

4. Unit Summary

Christian witnessing is the Spirit-empowered testimony of a transformed disciple to Jesus Christ. It includes character, testimony, proclamation, service, and disciple-making.

UNIT 2: THE HOLY SPIRIT, CONVERSION AND THE TRANSFORMED WITNESS

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit examines the Holy Spirit as the divine agent of conviction, conversion, transformation, empowerment, spiritual gifting, and Christian witness.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the Spirit's role in conversion.
2. Relate conversion to Christian witness.

3. Explain Spirit empowerment for mission.
4. Distinguish spiritual transformation from religious performance.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Explain John 16:8–11 in relation to conversion.
2. Describe the relationship between conversion and witness.
3. Identify evidence of Spirit-led transformation.
4. Develop a personal spiritual-witness plan.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: James Park, *Transforming Adventist Mission*

Key terms: Holy Spirit, conviction, conversion, regeneration, transformation, sanctification, spiritual gifts, empowerment

Biblical anchor: John 3:5–8; John 16:8–11; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:1–17

1. Introduction

Christian mission cannot be separated from the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Human persuasion may produce outward conformity, but genuine conversion involves a transformation of the heart.

2. Main Content

2.1 The Spirit and conviction

Jesus teaches that the Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Conviction is not manipulation.

The witness presents Christ faithfully; the Holy Spirit brings conviction.

2.2 Conversion as transformation

Biblical conversion involves turning toward God and away from a life centred on self and sin.

Conversion includes:

- repentance;
- faith;
- surrender;
- new identity;

- reconciliation;
- spiritual rebirth;
- incorporation into Christian community;
- beginning of discipleship.

2.3 The transformed witness

A Christian witness is most persuasive when the message is embodied.

The transformed witness demonstrates:

- love;
- integrity;
- humility;
- forgiveness;
- compassion;
- holiness;
- courage;
- patience;
- service.

2.4 Spiritual gifts and witness

The Spirit gives gifts for ministry.

These gifts may include teaching, evangelism, hospitality, leadership, mercy, administration, encouragement, service, and other forms of ministry.

The purpose of spiritual gifts is not personal status but the edification of the body and advancement of God's mission.

2.5 Dependence rather than manipulation

Christian witnessing should never depend upon coercion, emotional manipulation, exaggerated claims, fear-based tactics, or dishonest promises.

The Christian witness communicates truth faithfully and leaves the work of conviction to the Holy Spirit.

3. Biblical and Adventist Integration

Acts 1:8 establishes the relationship between Spirit empowerment and witness.

John 16:8–11 identifies the Spirit's convicting ministry.

Galatians 5:22–23 identifies the fruit that should characterize the transformed life.

4. Unit Summary

The Holy Spirit initiates conviction, facilitates conversion, produces transformation, distributes gifts, and empowers Christian witness. The Christian witness therefore depends upon divine power rather than human technique alone.

UNIT 3: DISCIPLESHIP, WITNESS AND THE MISSION OF GOD

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit examines discipleship as the bridge between conversion and mission.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Define biblical discipleship.
2. Explain the relationship between discipleship and witnessing.
3. Describe the mission of the church.
4. Develop a discipleship pathway.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Explain Matthew 28:18–20.
2. Distinguish conversion from discipleship.
3. Design a basic disciple-making pathway.
4. Explain why every disciple is also a witness.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: James Park, *Transforming Adventist Mission*

Key terms: disciple, discipleship, formation, mission, multiplication, obedience, spiritual maturity

Biblical anchor: Matthew 28:18–20; John 15:1–8; 2 Timothy 2:2

1. Introduction

Conversion begins the Christian journey; discipleship develops the Christian life; mission gives that life outward direction.

A church that produces converts without disciples produces spiritual consumers rather than missionaries.

2. Main Content

2.1 The disciple

A disciple is a learner and follower of Jesus whose entire life is increasingly shaped by Christ.

2.2 The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19–20 contains four interconnected movements:

1. Go.
2. Make disciples.
3. Baptize.
4. Teach obedience.

The central imperative is disciple-making.

2.3 Discipleship as transformation

Discipleship includes:

- Bible study;
- prayer;
- worship;
- obedience;
- fellowship;
- stewardship;
- character development;
- service;
- witness;
- leadership development.

2.4 The multiplying disciple

Paul's instruction to Timothy illustrates multiplication:

“The things that you have heard from me... commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Christian ministry becomes sustainable when disciples become disciple-makers.

2.5 Witness as a fruit of discipleship

The mature disciple does not ask only:

“What has God done for me?”

The disciple also asks:

“Whom is God calling me to serve, disciple, and lead toward Christ?”

3. Biblical and Adventist Integration

Adventist mission is not simply proclamation of doctrine. It involves proclaiming the everlasting gospel, making disciples, calling people into covenant community, and preparing the world for Christ's return.

4. Unit Summary

Discipleship transforms converts into mature followers of Jesus who participate in God's mission. Witness is therefore not an optional department of Christianity but an expression of discipleship.

MODULE ONE: INTEGRATED DELIVERABLES

Place the following work in the Continuous Assessment Portfolio.

1. Develop a biblical theology of Christian witnessing using Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18–20, John 16:8–11, and 1 Peter 3:15.
2. Explain how the Holy Spirit, conversion, discipleship, and mission form an integrated process of Christian transformation.
3. Evaluate a local church evangelism program and propose changes that would move it from event-centred evangelism toward Spirit-led discipleship and mission.

MODULE DELIVERABLES ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criterion	Evidence expected
Biblical foundation	Responsible interpretation of Scripture
Theological integration	Clear relationship between Spirit, conversion, discipleship and witness
Adventist identity	Faithful application of Adventist mission
Practical application	Realistic ministry recommendations
Academic quality	Clear organization and Turabian/Chicago documentation

MODULE TWO: PRACTICE OF CHRISTIAN WITNESSING

UNIT 4: PERSONAL TESTIMONY AND RELATIONAL WITNESS

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit equips learners to communicate their Christian experience through authentic testimony and relational evangelism.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the value of personal testimony.
2. Develop an authentic Christian testimony.
3. Practise relational evangelism.
4. Develop listening skills.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Prepare a three-minute testimony.
2. Practise active listening.
3. Identify natural opportunities for spiritual conversation.
4. Demonstrate relational sensitivity.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: James Park, *Transforming Adventist Mission*

Key terms: testimony, relational evangelism, listening, friendship, credibility, hospitality, spiritual conversation

Biblical anchor: John 1:40–46; John 4:28–30; Mark 5:18–20; 1 Peter 3:15–16

1. Introduction

People are often reached through relationships before they are reached through programs.

Authentic witnessing begins by seeing people as persons rather than as evangelistic targets.

2. Main Content

2.1 The theology of testimony

A testimony answers:

- Who was I?
- How did I encounter Christ?
- What has Christ done?
- How is Christ transforming me?
- What difference does Christ make now?

2.2 Listening before speaking

Effective witnesses learn to listen.

Listening communicates:

- dignity;
- respect;
- interest;
- empathy;
- patience.

2.3 Friendship evangelism

Christian friendship must be genuine.

People should never be treated as projects whose value depends upon whether they accept Christianity.

2.4 Spiritual conversations

Spiritual conversations may emerge from:

- suffering;
- family;
- work;
- purpose;
- death;
- success;
- failure;
- morality;
- prayer;
- Scripture;
- community needs.

2.5 Ethical witness

Witness should reject manipulation, deception, coercion, exploitation, and false promises.

UNIT 5: COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL IN DIVERSE CONTEXTS

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit examines gospel communication across cultural, social, educational, religious, and generational boundaries.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Explain contextualization.
2. Identify cultural barriers to witness.
3. Communicate the gospel clearly.
4. Respond constructively to questions and objections.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Conduct a basic cultural analysis.
2. Present the gospel in accessible language.
3. Respond respectfully to objections.
4. Avoid cultural ethnocentrism.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: James Park, *Transforming Adventist Mission*

Key terms: contextualization, worldview, culture, pluralism, apologetics, communication, cross-cultural witness

Biblical anchor: Acts 17:16–34; 1 Corinthians 9:19–23; John 4:1–42

Main Content

2.1 Gospel and culture

The gospel is unchanging, but methods of communicating it can vary.

2.2 Worldview

Every community interprets:

- God;
- humanity;
- suffering;
- morality;
- death;
- community;
- authority;
- identity;
- purpose.

Witness must therefore engage the worldview of the hearer.

2.3 Paul's contextual approach

Acts 17 illustrates Paul's engagement with a particular intellectual and religious context.

He listened, observed, identified points of connection, challenged false assumptions, and proclaimed Christ.

2.4 African contexts

African Christian witness must take seriously:

- communal identity;
- extended family;
- traditional religious beliefs;
- Pentecostal and charismatic Christianity;
- Islam;
- secularization;
- poverty and economic pressure;
- youth unemployment;
- urbanization;
- migration;
- technological change.

2.5 Contextualization without compromise

Contextualization changes the form of communication without changing the truth of the gospel.

UNIT 6: SERVICE, EVANGELISM AND CONTEXTUAL MISSION

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit integrates proclamation and practical Christian service.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the relationship between evangelism and service.
2. Design a contextual mission project.
3. Apply Christ's method of ministry.
4. Develop a follow-up system.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Conduct a basic community needs assessment.
2. Design a service-evangelism project.
3. Integrate spiritual and practical ministry.
4. Develop follow-up procedures.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: James Park, *Transforming Adventist Mission*

Key terms: service evangelism, community assessment, holistic mission, compassion, contextual mission, follow-up

Biblical anchor: Matthew 9:35–38; Matthew 25:31–46; Luke 10:25–37; James 2:14–17

Main Content

Christian mission should address people holistically.

Service demonstrates the love that the gospel proclaims.

A mission project should therefore include:

1. listening;
2. assessment;
3. prayer;

4. service;
5. gospel witness;
6. discipleship;
7. follow-up;
8. evaluation.

MODULE TWO: INTEGRATED DELIVERABLES

1. Write and present a three-minute personal testimony.
2. Conduct and document one intentional spiritual conversation.
3. Design a contextual community mission project integrating service, evangelism and discipleship.

Assessment Questions

1. Why is authentic Christian witness more than verbal proclamation?
2. How should the gospel be contextualized without compromising biblical truth?
3. Design a Christ-centred mission project for a specific community.

MODULE THREE: FOUNDATIONS OF SMALL GROUP DYNAMICS

UNIT 7: BIBLICAL THEOLOGY AND NATURE OF CHRISTIAN SMALL GROUPS

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit establishes a biblical and theological foundation for small-group ministry.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the biblical basis of Christian community.
2. Identify biblical examples of small-group relationships.
3. Explain the relationship between small groups and discipleship.
4. Develop a theology of Christian community.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Identify biblical models of small-group ministry.
2. Explain why Christians need community.
3. Develop a biblical rationale for small groups.
4. Relate small groups to the mission of the church.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: John Mallison, *The Small-Group Leader*

Key terms: community, fellowship, koinonia, small group, discipleship, accountability, belonging

Biblical anchor: Acts 2:42–47; Matthew 18:20; Exodus 18:13–27; Hebrews 10:24–25

1. Introduction

Christianity is personal but not individualistic.

God calls people into relationship with Himself and with one another.

Small groups provide relational environments in which believers can practise the “one another” dimensions of Christian discipleship.

2. Main Content

2.1 Jesus and small-group ministry

Jesus called twelve disciples and invested deeply in their formation.

He taught them, travelled with them, corrected them, prayed with them, served with them, and eventually commissioned them.

2.2 The early church

Acts 2:42–47 describes believers participating in:

- teaching;
- fellowship;
- breaking bread;
- prayer;
- mutual care;
- worship;
- generosity;
- mission.

2.3 The small group as Christian community

A healthy group provides:

- belonging;
- spiritual formation;
- accountability;
- pastoral care;
- Bible learning;
- prayer;
- evangelism;
- leadership development.

2.4 Adventist small-group theology

Adventist small groups can support Sabbath fellowship, Bible study, prayer, evangelism, discipleship, health ministry, family ministry, community service, and church planting.

Adventist small-group resources also describe small groups as a foundation for Christian effort and nurturing ministry.

2.5 Small groups and the body of Christ

Small groups should strengthen rather than replace the wider church.

The group is a cell within the body, not an independent body.

UNIT 8: THE PURPOSE, TYPES AND LIFE CYCLE OF SMALL GROUPS

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit examines different forms of small groups and the stages through which groups develop.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Identify different types of Christian small groups.
2. Explain group purposes.
3. Understand the life cycle of a group.
4. Establish appropriate group structures.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Select an appropriate group model.
2. Explain the developmental stages of a group.
3. Establish group expectations.
4. Develop a small-group covenant.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: John Mallison, *The Small-Group Leader*

Key terms: fellowship group, Bible-study group, discipleship group, prayer group, outreach group, support group, covenant, group life cycle

Biblical anchor: Acts 20:20; Romans 12:4–8; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27

Main Content

Mallison's manual addresses a broad range of small-group forms and emphasizes that groups should be designed according to purpose and need.

Possible groups include:

1. Bible-study groups.
2. Prayer groups.

3. Discipleship groups.
4. Evangelistic groups.
5. Family groups.
6. Youth groups.
7. Young-adult groups.
8. Professional groups.
9. Support groups.
10. Service groups.
11. Leadership-development groups.

Group life cycle

A group commonly moves through:

1. formation;
2. orientation;
3. participation;
4. conflict;
5. cohesion;
6. maturity;
7. multiplication or termination.

Leaders should understand that conflict does not necessarily mean group failure. Properly managed conflict can produce maturity.

UNIT 9: BUILDING COMMUNITY, FELLOWSHIP AND CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit focuses on trust, belonging, communication, hospitality, confidentiality, participation, and relational health.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the importance of trust.
2. Develop healthy group relationships.
3. Practise Christian hospitality.
4. Identify barriers to participation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Establish group norms.
2. Facilitate inclusive participation.

3. Identify unhealthy group behaviours.
4. Develop a group covenant.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: John Mallison, *The Small-Group Leader*

Key terms: trust, belonging, hospitality, confidentiality, participation, group covenant, empathy, active listening

Biblical anchor: Romans 12:9–18; Galatians 6:1–2; Ephesians 4:1–3

Main Content

2.1 Trust

Trust develops through:

- consistency;
- confidentiality;
- honesty;
- reliability;
- respect;
- vulnerability;
- non-judgmental listening.

2.2 Group covenant

A covenant may address:

- attendance;
- confidentiality;
- respect;
- participation;
- punctuality;
- prayer;
- conflict resolution;
- communication;
- care.

2.3 Participation

A leader should avoid allowing one person to dominate the group.

Likewise, quiet members should be invited without being embarrassed.

2.4 Hospitality

Hospitality is a missional practice.

The stranger should experience welcome before being expected to understand Christian culture.

2.5 Group belonging

People remain where they experience:

“I am known, valued, heard, and spiritually nourished.”

MODULE THREE: INTEGRATED DELIVERABLES

1. Develop a biblical theology of small-group ministry.
2. Design a small-group covenant.
3. Establish a six-week small group and develop its objectives, membership, meeting structure, activities and evaluation process.

Assessment Questions

1. Why should small groups be considered a ministry environment rather than simply another church meeting?
2. How do trust, belonging, accountability and participation contribute to group health?
3. Develop a biblical and practical model for establishing a small group in a local church.

MODULE FOUR: SMALL-GROUP LEADERSHIP AND FACILITATION

UNIT 10: THE SMALL-GROUP LEADER: CHARACTER, CALLING AND COMPETENCE

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit develops a theology and practice of small-group leadership.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the role of the small-group leader.
2. Identify essential leadership qualities.
3. Distinguish leadership from control.
4. Develop a personal leadership-development plan.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Evaluate their leadership strengths and weaknesses.
2. Develop a small-group leader profile.
3. Demonstrate servant leadership.
4. Develop a personal growth plan.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: John Mallison, *The Small-Group Leader*

Key terms: facilitator, servant leadership, shepherding, empowerment, delegation, mentoring, accountability

Biblical anchor: Mark 10:42–45; John 13:1–17; 1 Peter 5:1–4

Main Content

Mallison's treatment of effective leadership emphasizes practical skills rather than merely organizational authority.

The leader should be:

- spiritually mature;
- relationally competent;
- teachable;
- prayerful;
- dependable;

- emotionally aware;
- biblically grounded;
- mission-oriented;
- capable of delegation.

Leader as facilitator

The facilitator does not need to answer every question.

The leader creates an environment where members can:

- discover;
- discuss;
- pray;
- reflect;
- serve;
- grow.

Leader as shepherd

The small-group leader notices:

- absence;
- discouragement;
- conflict;
- spiritual growth;
- pastoral needs;
- opportunities for service.

Leader as developer of people

A successful leader eventually produces other leaders.

UNIT 11: COMMUNICATION, PARTICIPATION AND GROUP FACILITATION

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit develops practical communication and facilitation skills necessary for healthy small groups.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Explain effective communication.
2. Develop questioning skills.
3. Manage group participation.
4. Facilitate discussion.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Use open-ended questions.
2. Manage dominant participants.
3. Encourage quiet participants.
4. Handle disagreement constructively.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: John Mallison, *The Small-Group Leader*

Key terms: facilitation, open-ended question, active listening, feedback, non-verbal communication, participation

Biblical anchor: James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13; Ephesians 4:29

Main Content

Effective questions

Weak question:

“Did you understand the passage?”

Better question:

“What does this passage reveal about God's character?”

Even better:

“How should what this passage reveals about God change the way we live this week?”

Active listening

Active listening involves:

1. attention;
2. clarification;
3. reflection;
4. empathy;
5. appropriate response.

Managing difficult participation

Leaders should know how to respond to:

- dominant speakers;
- silent members;
- argumentative participants;
- chronic critics;
- storytellers;
- attention-seekers.

The objective is not control but healthy participation.

UNIT 12: BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION IN SMALL GROUPS

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit develops small-group practices of Bible study and prayer.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the role of Scripture in small groups.
2. Facilitate inductive Bible study.
3. Develop participatory prayer.
4. Connect Bible study with life transformation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Prepare a small-group Bible study.
2. Lead participatory discussion.
3. Develop creative prayer activities.
4. Evaluate spiritual growth.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: John Mallison, *The Small-Group Leader*

Key terms: inductive study, observation, interpretation, application, prayer, spiritual formation, reflection

Biblical anchor: 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Acts 17:11; Colossians 3:16; James 1:22

Main Content

Mallison's book specifically includes chapters on studying the Bible together, creative Bible-study methods, praying together, and creative prayer approaches.

A healthy small-group Bible study should move through:

Observation → Interpretation → Application → Transformation → Mission

The ultimate question is not merely:

“What does the passage mean?”

but:

“How should this truth reshape our lives and our mission?”

MODULE FOUR: INTEGRATED DELIVERABLES

1. Conduct a 30-minute simulated small-group Bible study.
2. Develop five open-ended discussion questions.
3. Facilitate a participatory prayer session.
4. Submit a self-evaluation of leadership performance.

Assessment Questions

1. What qualities distinguish a facilitator from a controller?
2. How can Bible study become transformational rather than merely informational?
3. Design a 60-minute small-group session integrating fellowship, Bible study, prayer and application.

MODULE FIVE: SMALL GROUPS FOR CARE, EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

UNIT 13: CARING FOR PEOPLE AND NEW CHRISTIANS IN SMALL GROUPS

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit examines the pastoral and discipleship function of small groups.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Explain pastoral care within small groups.
2. Develop care structures.
3. Integrate new Christians into community.
4. Establish appropriate boundaries.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Develop a new-member care pathway.
2. Identify pastoral concerns.
3. Provide appropriate support.
4. Know when referral is necessary.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: John Mallison, *The Small-Group Leader*

Key terms: pastoral care, nurture, follow-up, new believer, accountability, referral, confidentiality

Biblical anchor: Galatians 6:1–2; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; John 13:34–35

Main Content

Mallison explicitly includes caring for new Christians together as one of the functions of small groups.

A new believer needs:

- belonging;
- friendship;
- biblical instruction;
- prayer;
- mentoring;
- accountability;

- opportunities for service;
- connection to the wider church.

Small groups can therefore become the bridge between **decision and discipleship**.

Leaders must nevertheless understand their limits. Serious mental-health, medical, safeguarding, legal, or abuse-related concerns require appropriate professional or institutional referral.

UNIT 14: EVANGELISTIC SMALL GROUPS AND MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit examines the small group as an environment for relational evangelism and disciple-making.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Explain the evangelistic potential of small groups.
2. Develop an evangelistic group.
3. Integrate hospitality and gospel witness.
4. Develop a follow-up system.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Invite non-members appropriately.
2. Design evangelistic group meetings.
3. Facilitate spiritual conversations.
4. Develop a pathway from contact to discipleship.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: James Park; John Mallison

Key terms: evangelistic small group, missional community, hospitality, seeker, witness, discipleship pathway

Biblical anchor: John 1:40–46; Luke 19:1–10; Acts 18:24–28

Main Content

Mallison's manual includes a specific treatment of “**Sharing the Good News Together,**” demonstrating the relationship between small-group community and evangelism.

The evangelistic group should be:

- welcoming;
- relational;
- Bible-centred;
- prayerful;
- non-coercive;
- culturally sensitive;
- mission-oriented.

A possible pathway is:

Contact → Friendship → Invitation → Belonging → Gospel Encounter → Conversion → Discipleship → Service → Leadership → Multiplication

This integrates Park's emphasis on transformation and mission with Mallison's practical small-group model.

UNIT 15: CONFLICT, EVALUATION AND HEALTHY GROUP DYNAMICS

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit examines conflict, group problems, evaluation, accountability and the characteristics of healthy groups.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Identify common sources of group conflict.
2. Apply biblical conflict-management principles.
3. Evaluate group health.
4. Develop a corrective action plan.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Diagnose common group problems.
2. Facilitate reconciliation.
3. Evaluate group health.
4. Develop an improvement plan.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: John Mallison, *The Small-Group Leader*

Key terms: conflict, reconciliation, group health, evaluation, accountability, dysfunction, feedback

Biblical anchor: Matthew 18:15–20; Philippians 2:1–5; Ephesians 4:1–3

Main Content

Conflict may arise because of:

- personality differences;
- theological disagreement;
- leadership struggles;
- communication failures;
- unmet expectations;
- confidentiality breaches;
- cultural differences;
- competition;
- unresolved personal grievances.

Conflict should be addressed rather than ignored.

A basic process is:

Listen → Clarify → Pray → Identify the issue → Seek biblical principles → Agree on action → Follow up

Group evaluation

A healthy group should be evaluated in terms of:

1. spiritual growth;
2. participation;
3. relationships;
4. Bible engagement;
5. prayer;
6. care;
7. evangelism;
8. leadership development;
9. multiplication;
10. connection to the wider church.

Mallison's work includes evaluation tools and practical resources for leaders, including leader checklists and group evaluation ideas.

MODULE FIVE: INTEGRATED DELIVERABLES

1. Develop a care plan for a new Christian entering a small group.
2. Design an eight-week evangelistic small group.
3. Conduct a small-group health assessment.
4. Develop a response to a hypothetical group conflict.

Assessment Questions

1. How can small groups facilitate the transition from evangelistic contact to mature discipleship?
2. How should Christian leaders manage conflict without destroying relationships?
3. What indicators demonstrate that a small group is spiritually and missionally healthy?

MODULE SIX: MULTIPLICATION, MISSION AND PRACTICUM

UNIT 16: DEVELOPING LEADERS AND MULTIPLYING SMALL GROUPS

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit examines leadership development, delegation, mentoring and multiplication.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Explain leadership multiplication.
2. Develop emerging leaders.
3. Establish a multiplication strategy.
4. Explain when a group should multiply.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Identify potential leaders.
2. Develop a mentoring plan.
3. Delegate leadership responsibilities.
4. Design a multiplication pathway.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: John Mallison, *The Small-Group Leader*

Key terms: multiplication, mentoring, delegation, apprentice leader, leadership pipeline, reproduction

Biblical anchor: Exodus 18:17–23; 2 Timothy 2:2; Ephesians 4:11–16

Main Content

A group becomes increasingly healthy when responsibility moves from the leader to the members.

The leadership progression can be:

Observe → Assist → Practise → Lead → Mentor → Multiply

A leader who refuses to release responsibility may unintentionally prevent multiplication.

Mallison's small-group approach explicitly includes developing leadership skills and knowing when and how to begin and end groups.

UNIT 17: INTEGRATING WITNESSING, DISCIPLESHIP AND SMALL-GROUP MINISTRY

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit brings together the two principal strands of the course: Christian witnessing and small-group dynamics.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Integrate witnessing and small-group ministry.
2. Develop a disciple-making ecosystem.
3. Connect small groups to local-church mission.
4. Develop a sustainable ministry model.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Design an integrated witnessing-small-group pathway.
2. Explain how small groups support the Great Commission.
3. Develop a local church mission strategy.
4. Evaluate ministry sustainability.

Estimated study time: 8–10 hours

Core reading: James Park; John Mallison

Key terms: disciple-making, missional community, multiplication, witness, spiritual formation, mission ecosystem

Biblical anchor: Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 2:42–47; Acts 5:42; 2 Timothy 2:2

Main Content

The integrated model can be expressed as:

Conversion → Discipleship → Community → Witness → Service → Leadership → Multiplication

Park's framework emphasizes the relationship between conversion, discipleship, community and commission. Mallison's framework provides practical structures through which that transformation can occur in relational groups through Bible study, prayer, care, evangelism, leadership and evaluation.

The result is a missional ecosystem rather than an isolated program.

UNIT 18: MINISTRY PRACTICUM: DESIGNING, IMPLEMENTING AND EVALUATING A SMALL GROUP

UNIT OVERVIEW

This unit provides an applied practicum through which learners establish or participate in a Christian witnessing or small-group ministry.

UNIT OBJECTIVES

1. Conduct a ministry needs assessment.
2. Design a small-group intervention.
3. Implement the intervention.
4. Evaluate outcomes.
5. Reflect theologically on the experience.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learners should be able to:

1. Prepare a ministry proposal.
2. Conduct a small-group series.
3. Document participation.
4. Evaluate outcomes.
5. Present and defend a practicum portfolio.

Estimated study time: 12–15 hours

Core reading: James Park; John Mallison

Key terms: practicum, needs assessment, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, reflection, multiplication

Biblical anchor: Acts 2:42–47; Matthew 28:18–20; 2 Timothy 2:2

Practicum Requirements

Each learner should:

1. Identify a ministry context.
2. Conduct a simple needs assessment.
3. Identify participants.
4. Develop objectives.
5. Develop a six-to-eight-week program.
6. Prepare Bible-study materials.
7. Establish a group covenant.

8. Develop prayer practices.
9. Include witnessing or service.
10. Keep attendance records.
11. Maintain a reflective journal.
12. Conduct an evaluation.
13. Identify emerging leaders.
14. Develop recommendations for continuation or multiplication.
15. Present the project to the lecturer/supervisor.

MODULE SIX: INTEGRATED DELIVERABLES

Place the following in the Continuous Assessment Portfolio.

1. Prepare a complete small-group ministry proposal.
2. Conduct a supervised small-group experience.
3. Submit a group covenant.
4. Submit lesson/Bible-study plans.
5. Submit attendance and participation evidence.
6. Submit a leadership reflection.
7. Submit a group-health evaluation.
8. Submit evidence of witnessing/service.
9. Submit a multiplication plan.
10. Present a ten-minute practicum report.

MODULE ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

1. How can a local church develop an integrated pathway from conversion to discipleship, small-group participation, witnessing, leadership development and multiplication?
2. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a hypothetical small group using biblical, relational, spiritual, leadership and missional criteria.
3. Design a sustainable small-group ministry strategy for an Adventist congregation, explaining how it will produce disciples, witnesses, leaders and multiplying groups.

MODULE DELIVERABLES ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Criterion	Evidence expected
Biblical foundation	Responsible interpretation and application of Scripture
Adventist theological identity	Faithful integration of Adventist beliefs and mission
Christian witnessing	Competence in testimony, gospel communication and relational witness
Small-group leadership	Effective facilitation, communication and leadership
Discipleship	Evidence of spiritual formation and follow-up
Missional engagement	Meaningful evangelism and community service
Group dynamics	Healthy participation, relationships and conflict management
Practical implementation	Feasible ministry plan and implementation
Evaluation	Evidence-based assessment of outcomes
Academic quality	Clear organization and Turabian/Chicago documentation

The module deliverables should form part of the Continuous Assessment Portfolio. This follows the sample module's portfolio-based approach, which assesses biblical foundations, planning, implementation, participation, accountability, reflection and practical ministry quality.

APPENDICES AND PRACTICUM TOOLS

Appendix A: Personal Witnessing Reflection Form

1. Who am I seeking to reach?
2. What do I know about this person's context?
3. What spiritual questions may be present?
4. What has God already been doing in this person's life?
5. What opportunities exist for relationship?
6. What is my prayer for this person?
7. What did I learn from the encounter?

Appendix B: Three-Minute Personal Testimony Template

Before Christ

What was my spiritual condition, worldview, or life experience?

Encounter with Christ

How did I come to understand and respond to Jesus?

Transformation

What difference has Christ made?

Continuing Journey

How is Christ still transforming me?

Invitation

What would I encourage another person to consider about Jesus?

Appendix C: Small-Group Covenant

Our group agrees to:

1. Begin and end on time.
2. Respect every participant.
3. Listen before responding.
4. Protect appropriate confidentiality.

5. Avoid ridicule and humiliation.
6. Participate actively.
7. Pray for one another.
8. Study Scripture faithfully.
9. Welcome appropriate guests.
10. Address conflict directly and redemptively.
11. Support members in practical ways.
12. Remain connected to the wider church.

Appendix D: Small-Group Session Planning Sheet

Group name:

Date:

Leader:

Topic:

Objective:

Opening fellowship:

Worship/prayer:

Bible passage:

Observation questions:

Interpretation questions:

Application questions:

Mission challenge:

Prayer requests:

Follow-up responsibilities:

Evaluation:

Appendix E: Small-Group Health Assessment

Rate each area from 1–5.

Area	Score
Spiritual growth	
Prayer	
Bible engagement	
Fellowship	
Participation	
Hospitality	
Pastoral care	
Evangelism	
Service	
Leadership development	
Multiplication	
Connection with local church	

Appendix F: Christian Witnessing Practicum Log

Date /PersonContext /Witnessing activity /Main lesson learned/ Follow-up

Appendix G: Small-Group Leadership Observation Rubric

Criterion	Excellent	Competent	Developing	Beginning
Biblical preparation				
Communication				
Listening				
Questioning				
Participation				
Time management				
Prayer leadership				
Conflict management				
Evangelistic sensitivity				
Leadership development				

Appendix H: CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT PORTFOLIO CHECKLIST AND RUBRIC (50%)

The portfolio should contain:

- Module-end integrated deliverables

- Personal testimony
- Witnessing reflection
- Community mission project
- Small-group covenant
- Small-group Bible-study plan
- Prayer-session plan
- Evangelistic small-group proposal
- Group-health assessment
- Leadership observation
- Practicum logbook
- Supervisor verification
- Theological reflection
- Final recommendations
- Ten-minute practicum presentation

Criterion	Evidence expected	Marks
Biblical and theological foundation	Scripture, theology and Adventist mission	8
Christian witnessing competence	Testimony, gospel communication and relational witness	8
Small-group leadership	Facilitation, communication and leadership	8
Discipleship and pastoral care	Nurture, follow-up and relational ministry	7
Mission and evangelism	Service, witness and outreach	7
Evaluation and reflection	Evidence, reflection and improvement	7
Portfolio quality	Organization, language and documentation	5
Total		50

Appendix I: END-OF-SEMESTER EXAMINATION / CAPSTONE RUBRIC (50%)

Criterion	Evidence expected	Marks
Biblical and theological integration	Coherent theology of witness, discipleship and community	10
Adventist identity and mission	Accurate Adventist missional application	8
Christian witnessing	Application of Spirit-led witness and gospel communication	8
Small-group dynamics	Leadership, relationships, facilitation and group health	8
Mission and discipleship integration	Conversion, discipleship, witness and multiplication	8
Practical application	Feasible ministry strategy	5
Academic presentation	Organization and documentation	3
Total		50

Appendix J: GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Christian Witnessing: Bearing testimony to Jesus Christ through word, life, character, service and mission.

Conversion: A Spirit-enabled turning toward God through repentance, faith and surrender to Jesus Christ.

Disciple: A person who follows Jesus, learns from Him, is transformed by Him and participates in His mission.

Discipleship: The lifelong process of becoming increasingly like Christ and participating in His mission.

Evangelism: The intentional communication and embodiment of the gospel with the purpose of inviting people to respond to Christ.

Holy Spirit: The divine Person who convicts, regenerates, transforms, equips and empowers believers for Christian life and mission.

Missional Community: A Christian community organized around participation in God's mission.

Small Group: A relatively small gathering of Christians or seekers who meet regularly for relational, spiritual, missional or discipleship purposes.

Facilitation: The process of helping group members participate meaningfully in discussion, learning, prayer and ministry.

Group Covenant: A mutually agreed set of expectations governing participation and relationships within a group.

Group Dynamics: The relational, psychological, spiritual and behavioural processes that influence how members interact within a group.

Multiplication: The process through which a mature disciple or group develops new disciples, leaders or groups.

Relational Evangelism: Gospel witness conducted through authentic relationships, listening, friendship, service and personal interaction.

Spiritual Formation: The process through which the Holy Spirit shapes believers into Christlike people.

Testimony: A personal account of one's encounter with and experience of God's saving work.

Witness: A person who testifies to what he or she knows, has experienced, and believes concerning Jesus Christ.

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Park, James. *Transforming Adventist Mission: A Practical Workbook on the Holy Spirit, Biblical Conversion, Discipleship and Mission*. Los Angeles, CA: Park Circle Scribes, 2023.

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———. *The Ministry of Healing*. Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1905.

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Additional resources

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Adventist Mission and Personal Ministries resources.

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. *Church Manual* and relevant current denominational policies and guidelines.

Mallison, John. *The Small-Group Leader* study guides and supplementary leadership resources. Mallison's official ministry resource site provides the book and associated materials, including study guides and practical small-group resources.

COURSE INTEGRATION MODEL

The entire course can finally be summarized through the following ministry movement:

HOLY SPIRIT → CONVERSION → DISCIPLESHIP → COMMUNITY → WITNESS → SERVICE → LEADERSHIP → MULTIPLICATION → MISSION

This is the central pedagogical bridge between the two principal texts. **Park provides the transformational and missional framework for the Christian witness; Mallison provides the relational and practical framework through which discipleship, care, Bible study, prayer, evangelism and leadership can take place in vital small groups.** Park's published framework explicitly connects discipleship, communion with God, community, and commission, while Mallison's manual provides practical mechanisms for developing those relational environments.

This structure also closely follows the architecture of your supplied Bugema University sample: it moves from course rationale and competencies, through sequential modules and units, to integrated deliverables, practical assessment, appendices, and a final bibliography.