

# **Home Group Leaders Who Make A Difference!**

Many people who could be dynamic and effective small group leaders believe they are not qualified. They feel they don't know enough about the Bible or fear they are not good communicators. As I consider the people who have made a difference in my life and have helped me to grow spiritually, I recognise six qualities or characteristics. I believe that anyone who has these six characteristics can be an effective small group leader.

1. **A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS** – without exception the people who made a difference in my life were committed to growing in Christ. They were always people who were being transformed and changed by God not those who thought they had it all together. They allowed me to see their life in the midst of the journey. Not only was I privileged to see their struggles, but also I saw how they responded in a Christlike way to life's problems.
2. **AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S WORD** – I have been influenced most by those who could lead me to God's truth. Those people who could help me to dig into God's Word myself and to see how it applies to my life. It is not necessary to be a great bible scholar or a theologian but a general understanding of God's Word is essential.
3. **A SINCERE LOVE** – The saying is true "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care". The people who have moved me – the ones who have stretched and challenged me – were influential in my life because their actions were rooted in love. At times their love has been confronting, sometimes gentle and comforting but always for my benefit. I always knew that because they loved and cared they were also bringing me before God the Father in prayer.
4. **PEOPLE-RELATED GIFTS & SKILLS** – A lack of basic people skills can alienate and push others away. Leaders who make a difference understand people. They know when to speak and when to listen.
5. **A COMMITMENT OF TIME** – The influential people in my life were available to me. It is difficult to make a difference in people's lives without spending time with them outside of the Home Group.
6. **A COMMITMENT TO CHURCH** – I am thankful for those who modelled to me not just a commitment to the Home Group but gave me a vision and a love for God's church. They helped me see the importance of being part of the body of Christ.

This is not an exhaustive list. There is no specific mix of gifts, skills, passions and personality that will automatically create an effective leader, but these six characteristics in my experience continually seem to rise to the surface in leaders who make a difference.