

The Purpose of Smaller Groups for Language Learners

- ❖ They have close contact with the person who is speaking.
- ❖ They have more chances to speak.
- ❖ They feel more comfortable asking their questions and expressing disagreement.
- ❖ They (or the leader) can check to make sure they understood correctly.
- ❖ They can bring up personal concerns or questions.
- ❖ They are more likely to listen actively because they know they will have to respond.
- ❖ They can try out new discussion strategies - ones we can teach them!

Ways to Group Your Small Group

- ❖ Neighboring Pairs
- ❖ Tutoring Pairs
- ❖ Random Pairs
- ❖ Selective Pairs
- ❖ Rotating Groups or Pairs
- ❖ Groups of 3 or 4
- ❖ Talking Lines
- ❖ Individual Work
- ❖ First Language Groups

Types of Smaller Groups #1 **Community-Building Groups**

I use these groups for the opening activity.

I usually begin it as soon as they walk in the door.

These groups have the most variety.

Example #1 Random Pairs

Stand up and walk around. Ask three people ...

Stand up and walk around. Ask three people about their grandmother.

“Please tell me a story about one of your grandparents.”

Example #2 Selective Pairs

The teacher selects the partners.

What did you study in school? Stand up and walk around.

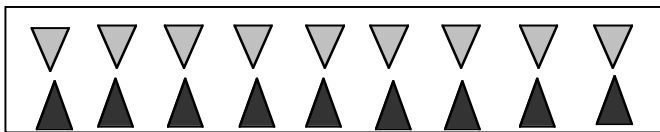
Try to find someone who studied the same thing.

Example #3 Talking Lines

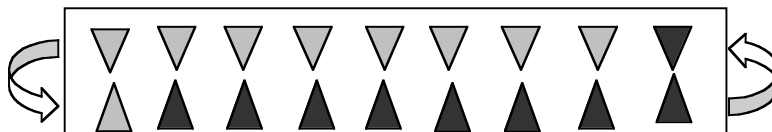
**Stand in two lines facing each other. Talk and rotate.
(Full instructions below.)**

Get into talking lines. Talk about your favorite holiday. What day is it? How do you celebrate it?

Talking Lines: Instructions



Line up the people, standing up or in chairs, facing each other. In other words, half the group is facing in one direction, and the other half of the group is facing them, one-on-one. They talk to the person they are facing until you stop them. Clap your hands or otherwise get their attention, and ask them to move to the right. The end people move to the space across from them.



They will have a new partner, and can start over or move on to a new question. Once they learn how to make the turns at the end of the row, this will be easy to set up. At first, you will have to help them to move. You can move them as many times as you want. This is a good warm-up for a whole-group discussion.

Types of Smaller Groups #2 **Task-Based Groups**

Each group has a task to do.

Sometimes it is the same, and sometimes each group has a different task.

These groups can happen any time during the study.

Example #1 Neighboring Pairs Work with the person sitting next to you.

Fill in this chart with the meaning of the parable. Work with your neighbor.

What kind of "soil" are they?	How do these people respond to the Word of God?
soil along the _____	
soil on the _____	
soil among the _____	

Example #2 Rotating Groups Work something in one group and take that information to a different group to share.

Work on different sections, and share what you learn with others. There is workspace on the next page.

- Section A: What does Jesus know about Peter's future? Who will test Peter? Circle the reference to an animal. Why is it important to the story?
- Section B: Mark the words that help you understand how Jesus felt. How did the disciples feel? Who helped Jesus? Put a box around Jesus' prayer.
- Section C: Make a list below of all the people and what they did.
- Section D: Make a list of all that Peter said and did. Could Peter and Jesus see each other?

Example #3 Individual Work Work on the text alone before discussing its meaning.

1. Look at the first verse below. To whom is Jesus speaking? Underline the words.
2. Look over the text before you read. Look for repeated words and opposites (rich – poor). Also look at the form and style (the way the text looks). What do you see?

Example #4 Tutoring Pairs Help someone with lower English skills.

Types of Smaller Groups #3 **Discussion Groups**

These groups work best with a leader who has prepared before class.
Christian international students and spouses make great small group leaders.
These groups usually have three to five people in them.

Example #1 Groups of 3 to 5 Discussion Groups

Discuss these questions in small groups:

5. The verse above is Jesus' "mission statement." It tells his purpose or goal. How does he fulfill this goal? Find your answer in both parts of the lesson.
6. How were these two men "lost"? Describe how they were "found" after they met Jesus.
7. Jesus said that the blind man's faith had healed him. Faith is trusting in someone or something we do not see. How do the blind man and Zacchaeus show their trust in Jesus?

Example #2 Selective Pairs The teacher selects the partners, sometimes for his or her own reasons.

Discuss one of these questions:

1. Imagine you are the criminal on the cross who is now with Jesus. What are you feeling and thinking? What do you want to say?
2. If you were God, what kind of people would you welcome into heaven? Would you welcome the criminal on the cross?

Example #3 Rotating Groups Discuss something in one group and take that information to a different group to share.

We are going to compare the temptation of Adam and Eve with the temptation of Jesus. Divide into four groups. Read your section again and answer the questions below.

Group 1: The first temptation of Jesus (above)

Group 2: The second temptation of Jesus (above)

Group 3: The third temptation of Jesus (above)

Group 4: The temptation of Adam and Eve, (Genesis 2:15-17 and 3:1-6, or "The First Humans," pages 14-16.)

Study Groups I am studying with Group _____

What is the devil suggesting?

Why is this tempting?

How does Jesus respond? (or Eve?)

Share your answers with the other groups.

The workbook pages have been formatted to fit a smaller space.

Example #4 First Language Groups Used occasionally to discuss something in one's own language that is close to one's heart.