



Early Methodist Small-Group Structures and Settings for Christian Formation



CHARACTERISTICS	CLASS MEETING	BAND MEETING	SELECT SOCIETY
Community Defined	Rules	Rules	Rules
Essential Experience [and Theology]	Desire for God [<i>Convincing Grace</i>]	New Birth [<i>Justifying Grace</i>]	Love of God [<i>Sanctifying Grace</i>]
Formational Focus	Mind	Will	Heart or Affection
Music	Beginning and end	Beginning and end	Beginning and end
Prayer	By leader	Everyone can pray	Everyone can pray
Intellectual Focus	Finding the way (<i>Luke 11:9-10</i>)	Overcoming sin (<i>James 5:14</i>)	Love of Christ (<i>Romans 5:5</i>)
Context of Activity	Outwardly obey the General Rules	Inwardly practice the means of grace	Live in love and obedience
Emotional Focus	Desire for God	Repentance and forgiveness	Love of God and neighbor
Meeting Place	Neighborhood	Anywhere	Anywhere
Gender and Marital Status	All together	Gender and marital status specific	All together
Number of Members	12 – 36	4 – 8	6 – 65
Leadership	Appointed by the Wesleys	Shared	Shared
Expected Response	Outward obedience	Growth in Christian discipleship	Love, service, spiritual leadership



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