

## Staying fresh as a small group leader

**Discuss:** How long have you led a small group for?  
What are the signs of losing your 'freshness' as a small group leader?

### Signs of spiritual staleness

Important caveat: Frustrated ministry is faithful ministry

- Don't panic
  - Don't ignore
- i) Going through the motions
  - ii) Lacking concern for others
  - iii) Growing resentment

### Big picture basics:

#### 1. Remember why you're there

##### a) Serving others—the earthly significance

'And you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory'

1 Thessalonians 2:11–12 ESVUK

## **b) Serving others—the eternal significance**

‘But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavoured the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy’ 1 Thessalonians 2:17–20 ESVUK

## **2. Remember what you’re doing**

### **(a) Listening to the word of the living God**

‘My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times’ Psalm 119:20 ESVUK

‘I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments’ Psalm 119:131 ESVUK

- **Prayerful dependence**
- **Keep working at the text**
- **Find new input**
- **Think hard about application**

### **(b) Teaching the word of the living God**

‘Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God’ Colossians 3:16 ESVUK

- **Prayerful dependence**
- **Write new studies**
- **Swap the passages you lead**

### 3. Remember who you're with

'We urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all' 1 Thessalonians 5:14 ESVUK

Discuss: What from this morning will help you fight staleness?

What will you need to remember in the years ahead to stay fresh in ministry?

What would be your prayer for the rest of the year, given what we've heard this morning?