

**TITLE:** Activate: An Entirely New Approach to Small Groups

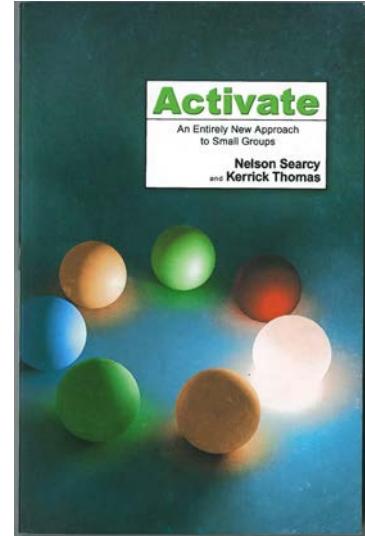
**AUTHORS:** Nelson Searcy and Kerrick Thomas

**AUTHORS' CREDENTIALS:**

Nelson Searcy (MDiv, Duke University) - pastor and founder of The Journey Church of the City (a large church in New York City). Searcy worked with Rick Warren at Saddleback Church. He has trained more than 20,000 church planters and church leaders. For more, see

<http://www.churchleaderinsights.com/index.php/about/nelson-searcy>.

Kerrick Thomas (MDiv, Princeton Theological Seminary) - teaching pastor at The Journey Church.



**FOCUSED ON CHURCH?**

Yes, entirely.

**BIBLICAL VIEWPOINT?**

Searcy and Thomas include Biblical references, but *Activate* is primarily nuts and bolts. For example, their statements about the size, length and purpose of successful small groups may be true from the authors' experience, but they cite no Biblical or research support.

**STRENGTHS:**

- This is a Here's What We Do book, in exhaustive detail.
- If you want to copy The Journey Church's structure, the Table of Contents gives you their 12 concepts and the step-by-step process they use.

**HOLES AND SOFT SPOTS:**

- *Activate* is written for senior pastors and staff. It assumes that the reader is dealing with the whole church and that the reader controls (or significantly influences) the overall program of the church.
- *Activate* is so detailed that it is not easy to pick out usable concepts for other applications. If you are not the senior pastor, it is a lot of work to glean useful information.
- The authors offer small groups as all or nothing. They see small groups as the Best -- if other options stay in the mix, the other options create "drag."

**SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR COMMENTS:**

- What helpful points do Searcy and Thomas make for churches that are not structured around small groups?
- How might *Activate* or its info be used by someone other than the senior pastor?