



Getting Started as a Small Group Leader

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Getting Started as a Small Group Leader

SESSION 1

The Goal of a Small Group

TEACHING NOTES

God has to work _____ first, before He works through the group.

The goal of a small group is facilitating God's work --
_____.

B.I.O.

Come _____ daily.

Do Life _____.

_____ 24/7.



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SESSION 2

How to Launch a Small Group

TEACHING NOTES

1. _____ a group.
2. Make an _____.
3. Create a _____ environment.
4. Face your _____.



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ON YOUR OWN

Work through the following questions at your own pace.

If you haven't yet started your small group:

1. Make a list of people you could invite. Next to each name, give yourself a deadline to make a personal invitation. A face-to-face conversation or phone call is the best way to invite people to your group.

name

date

2. As you consider role as a small group leader/facilitator, what challenges do you anticipate facing?

If you have started your small group:

(see next page)



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1. One of the ways that we experience community is to live out the “one another’s” of Scripture. In the list below, put an “A” by the ones that you think your group is doing well, and put a “O” by the one another’s that you think your group needs to work on. (A is for awesome, and O is for opportunity to grow)

___ Love one another. (John 13:34)

___ Be devoted to one another. (Romans 12:10)

___ Honor one another. (Romans 12:10)

___ Live in harmony with one another. (Romans 12:16)

___ Accept one another. (Romans 15:7)

___ Encourage one another. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

___ Serve one another. (Galatians 5:13)

___ Bear one another’s burdens. (Galatians 6:2)

___ Be compassionate to one another. (Ephesians 4:32)

___ Be kind to one another. (Ephesians 4:32)

___ Be patient with one another. (Ephesians 4:2)

___ Forgive one another. (Colossians 3:13)

___ Teach and admonish one another. (Colossians 3:16)

___ Build up one another. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



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____ **Be humble toward one another. (1 Peter 5:5)**

____ **Confess your sins to one another. (James 5:16)**



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SESSION 3

Help! I'm a Small Group Leader!

TEACHING NOTES

1. View your _____ as a "quiet time."

Preparation

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Review the materials.
3. Ask God what He wants you to learn.

2. Build unity by clarifying _____.

Example of Sally and Joe

What do you want to get out of this group?
In your opinion, what does a healthy group look like?

Periodically ask:

How are we doing as a group?
Are we reaching these values?
Do we need to make any changes in how we do things?



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ON YOUR OWN

Read through the sample "Small Group Covenant" and "6 Don'ts for Small Groups" for ideas you might apply to your own group."

SMALL GROUP COVENANT

We agree to the following priorities:

Take the Bible Seriously

To seek to understand and apply God's truth in the Bible.

Group Attendance

To show up every time we meet or call if I'm going to be absent or late.

Building Relationships

To get to know other members in the group and develop deeper friendships.

Safe Environment

To create a safe place where people can be heard without judgment or quick fixes.

Respectful Discussion

To speak in a way that honors our spouse and others.

Confidentiality

To avoid gossip by keeping anything that is shared within the group.

Accountability

To give group members permission to help me live a godly, healthy spiritual life that is pleasing to God.

B.I.O.

To encourage each other to come BEFORE God daily, do life IN community, and be ON mission 24/7.

Prayer

To pray regularly with and for one another.



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6 Don'ts of Small Groups

DON'T talk to make conversation.

OVERCOME the false safety of superficial relationships ...
BECAUSE it's better to use your words to make a difference.

DON'T hide your personal brokenness.

OVERCOME your fear of rejection ...
BECAUSE spiritual people have problems, too.

DON'T contribute to a critical and negative environment.

OVERCOME the desire to ignore your flaws by condemning others ...
BECAUSE grace and mercy lead to immeasurable quantities of freedom.

DON'T hide your confusion or ignorance.

OVERCOME the pride that props up a façade of false confidence ...
BECAUSE pretenders are lonely; their true self remains unknown.

DON'T accept others inauthentically.

OVERCOME the temptation to fake it ...
BECAUSE counterfeited relationships don't fool anyone.

DON'T immediately seek rescue from the storm.

OVERCOME the painful dreadful season ...
BECAUSE God has something to say (and to show) to you.



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SESSION 4

How to Lead Engaging Discussions

TEACHING NOTES

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? (Matthew 6:27)

*Why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?
(Matthew 15:3)*

Who do you say I am? (Matthew 16:15)

Are you so dull? (Mark 7:18)

The purposes of a person's heart are deep waters, but one who has insight draws them out. (Proverbs 20:5)

1. Believe that your _____ are more powerful than your _____.

2. Before your group meets, define the _____ for that night's conversation.

3. Be ready to _____.
(see Romans 1:12)

4. Address the _____.



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5. Be ready to _____ your questions.

6. Challenge common _____.

7. Be comfortable with _____.

8. Don't _____ your own questions.

9. Don't settle for the _____ answer.

10. Avoid _____ questions...unless...



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ON YOUR OWN

Work through the following questions at your own pace.

1. Every group is a little different! What are some words you would use to describe the “personality” of your group?

2. If someone in your group this week was to share that they were really struggling with their motivation to spend time with God, what are 3 questions you could ask to minister to them?

3. Look over the list of 10 ideas for engaging discussions. Which two might you put in to practice next time your group meets? How will you specifically translate that principle into your leadership?



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SESSION 5

How to Build Deeper Relationships

TEACHING NOTES

1. Model and encourage _____.

*He who seeks the glory of God is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him.
(John 7:18)*

Admit confusion or ignorance.

Be open about your personal brokenness.

2. Hold one another _____.

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

3. Avoid the _____.

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. (2 Corinthians 4:7-9)



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ON YOUR OWN

Work through the following questions at your own pace.

1. Take a quick authenticity inventory.

(a) Do you feel like your group time a “safe place” to be authentic and honest?

Not so safe (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) Safe to share

(b) As a leader for your group, does being authentic and honest come easily or is it a struggle?

Struggle (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) Easy

(c) In your opinion, how authentic and honest are the people in your group?

Stay on the surface (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) Authentic

2. Explain why you gave the ratings that you did.

3. Specifically for your group, what are some barriers to conversations that are more authentic and honest?



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SESSION 6

How to Grow as a Leader

TEACHING NOTES

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:2-3

1. Remember that relationships _____.

2. Evaluate your _____ and _____.

Evaluation

- a.) Have a clear picture of success.
- b.) Do it often.
- c.) Ask for feedback.
- d.) Celebrate the wins!
- e.) Move on with specific changes.

3. Share _____

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. 1 Thessalonians 2:8



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ON YOUR OWN

Leading a small group goes deeper than good discussions and planning. It's important for a leader to be personally growing in his or her faith. Take a few moments to give yourself a spiritual "checkup" with the following questions.

1. Rate your own overall spiritual health.

Dry (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) Vibrant

2. How much joy do you have these days?

None (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) Overflowing

3. How would you describe your personal prayer life?

Struggling (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) Dynamic

4. I have people in my life who truly know me and hold me accountable.

No one (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) Healthy

5. Describe your level of rest and energy.

Exhausted (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) Refreshed

6. How would you describe your time with Jesus in the Word?

Stale (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) Life-Giving

7. Over the last 3 months, how would you describe your interactions with people?

Harsh (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) Loving

8. I am taking good care of myself physically.

Not Good (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) High Priority