
UNTRIGGERED SERIES

LEADER GUIDE | OVERVIEW

Leading a Small Group

SETTING UP GROUP

Create a **GROUP CHAT** with those who will be in your group. Coordinate a **DAY & TIME** for your first meetup. See “Where to Start: Your First Small Group” to set up your first group experience. At your first gathering, commit to establishing your group’s **RHYTHMS** and figuring out your group’s **PURPOSE**.

BEFORE GROUP BEGINS

Look over the content, review your notes, jot down some of your own questions. On the day of your group, show up early. Be ready to greet people as they come in. Create a culture of timeliness by starting on time.

A great place to start is by asking people to generally share about their weeks. Try adding in more specific questions over time like:

How have you seen God move this week?

What has God been teaching you?

Update us on your walk with Christ, as well as your life.

How’d the challenge from last week go?

GROUP TIME

There are four main elements of group time: 1) **READ**, 2) **DISCUSS**, 3) **CHALLENGE**, and 4) **PRAY**.

READ—Have everyone open their Bibles. Have someone read aloud for everyone. Share general observations of the text.

DISCUSS—Go through the provided questions, follow the flow of discussion, listen more than you talk, and turn statements into questions.

CHALLENGE—Read and respond to the challenge, identify at least one other person to hold each other accountable to the challenge.

PRAY—Take prayer requests and have someone record the requests to send out after group time for continued prayer, but also so you can begin to see God’s faithfulness over time.

A fifth element to group time is all encompassing—it’s **COMMUNITY**. Community only grows over time, but there are intentional steps we can take to deepen it week by week. A big part of community is shared experiences. What would it look like for your group to share meals, game nights, or movie nights virtually?

AFTER GROUP

Follow up with those who might need additional care. Be praying for your group to grow and for the requests they bring before God. Every time you can call one of them up and pray with them over the phone or video is a big win. Every touchpoint matters.

You can be the primary communicator of details for the group, or you could assign someone else who is gifted in that area to do it, but be sure someone is sending out reminders leading up to the group time!

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WHERE TO START

Your First Small Group

GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

Who are you? Where are you from? How did you end up here (in this group)?

GROUP RHYTHMS

When will your group meet? Identify what time and day of the week works best for everyone. Commit and establish your consistency. How often will your group gather? Down the road, you will want to pay attention to seasonal rhythms and plan accordingly for Summer, around holidays, and anything else that would impact your group times.

How will you organize our time? A sample group time for one hour might be: 15-minute catch up, 10-minute read/observe, 20-minute discussion, 10-minute challenge plan, 5-minute prayer requests/prayer. Be creative with how you organize your time. Share a meal (even through video chat!) before the group officially kicks off, take longer to study the passage, or play games and have dessert after. You can do what works best for your group!

GROUP PURPOSE

Why does our group exist? Early on, your group will need to decide on its purpose. Are you trying to reach your neighbors, co-workers, friends? Are you trying to study a book of the Bible? Are you basing discussion off the sermons? Are you going through a study? Your purpose could change over time, but if you don't know why you exist then you don't know where you are going.

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5 Group Expectations

To better facilitate depth and trust among this group, consider reading aloud through the 5 Group Expectations before your first group time. These expectations can also guide your ongoing relationships with your group—since only a portion of your life together as a group will be in group time.

Each of the 5 Expectations are framed by a “we” statement on purpose:

1. WE COME AS WE ARE.

We are not perfect people. We all need a safe place to gather and be known. Small Groups are that safe place. What is said here stays here, and we do not gossip about anything shared.

2. WE PUT OTHERS FIRST.

There are roughly 59 “one-another” statements in the New Testament. The beautiful thing about the Gospel is that when we show up for others, we actually get our needs met as well. We all participate in the discussion either as active listeners or speakers. We each keep our sharing to 3-5 minutes each, and remain actively engaged as others are speaking.

3. WE ENCOURAGE AND COMFORT.

In Christ, we have the power to be present with the fullness of the Spirit’s presence within us. We acknowledge that we can’t fix or change one another, so we instead promise to provide encouragement and comfort. We don’t express judgment or disgust toward one another’s struggles. And we don’t give unwarranted advice! When we want to give additional counsel, we ask permission after the gathered time.

4. WE JOURNEY TOGETHER.

We are relational beings, created in the image of a Triune God. Because we are created for community, we need each other to grow in Christlikeness. We invite one another into our journey and walk through life together, following up with one another throughout the week. Because God never gives up on us or leaves us alone, we commit to journeying with one another through thick and thin.

5. WE FOCUS ON CHRIST.

We don’t get sidetracked by unhelpful issues in sports, politics, pop culture, and so on. In some cases, we can engage cultural issues from a Christ-centered perspective, but typically we delay these discussions until discussion time is over. We focus instead on Christ, the Word of God made flesh, because He alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We cannot change one another or even ourselves; only Christ can bring about grace, truth, and healing by His presence.



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