

groups  
LEADERS

*Guide*



**SOUTHSIDE  
CHURCH**



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# GROUP LEADERS

This guide is designed to help prepare and equip you as you lead your group. We want to equip you to be a source of encouragement and hospitality for your group members. We hope this orientation provides some helpful tools as you lead your group and helps you move forward in your own faith journey.

Keep in mind that this guide isn't exhaustive. We've tried to keep it simple by including the information that is most helpful as you begin leading. There will be other training opportunities and resources for you to grow in your leadership.

Finally, we recommend you use the space provided to take notes and record ideas. Thank you for partnering with us to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

For more on group leadership go to  
**[WWW.GROUPLADERS.INFO](http://WWW.GROUPLADERS.INFO)**

# LEADER EXPECTATIONS

## Community Group Win

The win for a Community Group is to create an environment where people have the opportunity to pursue healthy relationships and spiritual growth.

## Leadership Expectations

- Your spiritual growth will look different than your group members' spiritual growth.
- You will help your group members take next steps.
- You will invest in your own spiritual growth.

## The Posture of a Leader

- Humility - a modest or low view of one's own importance; humbleness.
- Teachability - having a learner's posture. Having a growth mindset, and willing to receive feedback.
- Curiosity - curious people tend to express more empathy because they prefer asking questions instead of reacting by stating their truth.
- Intentionality - leading with intention is deliberate and having a plan for yourself and the group.

Your group members don't expect you to have all the answers. They expect you to care about who they are and to want to help them grow.

# QUICK START PLAN

*STEPS TO TAKE TO GET YOUR GROUP OFF TO A GREAT START*

## THE FIRST 90 DAYS

- **Stay Connected to God - (See More on Page 8)**
- **Focus on Relationships - (Page 9)**
- **Use Story Cards to Get to Know One Another - (Page 6)**
- **Share Group Member Contact with One Another (Page 18)**
- **Plan Regular Socials - (Page 20)**
- **Model Vulnerability - (Page 17)**
- **Share Tasks with Group Members - (Page 10)**
  - Hosting Meetings
  - Brining Snacks
  - Sending Emails
  - Planning Socials
  - Planning Social Projects
- **Do a Service Project - (Page 20)**
- **Cast a Vision for the Group Growth - (Page 28)**
- **Pick Your Next Curriculum - (Page 29)**

# QUICK START PLAN

*STEPS TO TAKE TO GET YOUR GROUP OFF TO A GREAT START*

## THE MIDDLE MONTHS

- Stay Connected to God - (Page 8)

- Continue to Focus on Relationships - (Page 9)

- Name and Celebrate Growth in Group Members - (Page 22)

- Decide Together Who and How You'll Serve on a Regular Basis - (monthly, quarterly, or three times each year)

- Start Talking about Group Next Steps - (Page 28)

- Identify potential future leaders, invite them into leadership, and begin sharing responsibilities - (See More on Page 10)

## THE LAST 90 DAYS

- Stay Connected to God - (Page 8)

- Continue to Focus on Relationships - (Page 9)

- Have Conversations About Next Steps - (Page 28)

- Create a Plan for Multiplication - (Page 29)

# USING STORY CARDS TO CONNECT

## *Get to know group members with Story Cards*

Each week we'll use Story Cards to ask 1 or 2 questions. As an alternative you can see how to use digital story cards at [anthology.study/story-cards](http://anthology.study/story-cards). Sample questions for each week are listed below.



### Week 1

- Pick a card that represents your life right now.
- Pick a card that describes your week, month or current season in life.
- Pick a card that describes the way you feel God sees you.



### Week 2

- Pick a card that describes your personality.
- Pick a card that describes how you view God/faith/church.



### Week 3

- Pick a card that represents your family/your family growing up/your hometown.
- Pick a card that describes your biggest fear/biggest dream.
- Pick a card that describes the church/what you think about the church.



### Week 4

- Pick a card that represents grace to you.
- Pick a card that represents a pivotal moment in your life.



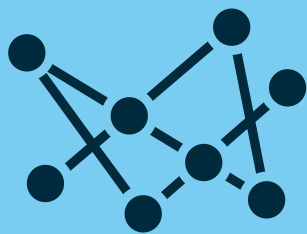
# LEADER ESSENTIALS

## 4 Essentials for Leading Well

### STAY CONNECTED

- This essential reminds us to stay spiritually nourished as we encourage spiritual growth in our group members.

**Are you first staying rooted in your relationship with Jesus, realizing that apart from him you can do nothing? How are you encouraging those in your group to stay connected to Jesus?**



### CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS

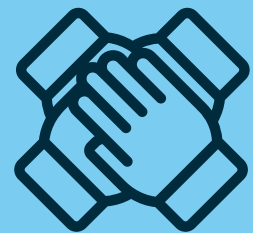
- This essential is focused on how we build community.
- By encouraging and facilitating connections outside of regular group meetings, you demonstrate the priority of relationships.

**How are you and your group members connecting outside of group time?**

### SHARE OWNERSHIP

- This essential focuses on how you involve your group members.
- Shared participation (facilitating the study, hosting the meeting, preparing the snack, leading prayer time, planning socials, guiding the curriculum choice discussion, etc.) creates broader ownership of the group.

**How are you involving your group members in supporting the group?**



### PROVIDE CARE

- This essential focuses on the big and small ways we can provide care for one another.
- People often don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

**Do you make it a priority for your group to support and care for one another?**

# STAY CONNECTED



*Leaders remain healthy by staying connected with God*

In order to grow spiritually a person must focus on his or her relationship with God, other believers, and non-believers. And that's especially true of you as your group's leader. If your goal is to help your group members build life-changing community with one another, you need to be pursuing the Three Vital Relationships yourself. And that begins with pursuing an intimate relationship with God.

## 3 VITAL RELATIONSHIPS

- INTIMACY WITH GOD • COMMUNITY WITH INSIDERS • INFLUENCE WITH OUTSIDERS

More About the 3 Vital Relationships on Page 12

Intimacy with God is the foundation for the other two relationships. As you lead, make sure you stay connected with your heavenly Father. Don't let the busyness that comes with leadership push him to the periphery.

Read your Bible on a regular basis and pray for your leadership and for your group. When you pray, invite God into your group. Ask him to do what you cannot: grow you and the others in your group. Remember that you're responsible for leading the group, but you can't create community or produce spiritual growth. He's responsible for outcomes.

## Staying Connected to Jesus

1. **Read** - Create a rhythm of daily Bible reading.
2. **Pray** - Get conversational with God.
3. **Rest** - Sometimes we wear busy like a badge, resting is a great way to posture ourselves for connection.
4. **Write** - Try keeping a journal of things you're thankful for, and areas you want to see growth, and where God showed up.
5. **Act** - When we've done steps 1 - 4, God will often reveal areas we need to act in faith.

**ARE YOU FIRST STAYING ROOTED IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, REALIZING THAT APART FROM HIM YOU CAN DO NOTHING? HOW ARE YOU ENCOURAGING THOSE IN YOUR GROUP TO STAY CONNECTED TO JESUS?**



# CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS

*To grow spiritually we must be connected relationally*

Spiritual growth isn't just about learning more information or following a set of rules, spiritual growth is relational. It is about our relationship with God and our relationship with other people. Growing spiritually is about growing in love in: love for God and love for others. You have to be connected relationally for those things to happen.

**“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”**

**Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**

**MATTHEW 22:36-39**

## HOW ARE YOU AND YOUR GROUP MEMBERS CONNECTING OUTSIDE OF GROUP TIME?

As relationships develop, empathy and vulnerability increase. As your group members open up more of their lives to each other growth becomes more likely.

Cultivating relationships never feels urgent, but it is important. Being intentional with cultivating relationships will create a far better group experience for everyone in the group. Creating these connections and cultivating relationships aren't just add-ons to the more important spiritual growth, they are an essential part of that spiritual growth.

### Things You Can Do to Cultivating Relationships

1. **Be Intentional** - Schedule time to hangout and connect relationally. Actually set dates and times to get together.
2. **Model Vulnerability** - When you're answering curriculum questions or telling some of your story be real. It shows group members it's safe for them to be real too.
3. **Don't Make Things Too Complicated** - Connection isn't hard, but it does require time together.

# SHARE OWNERSHIP

*Moving from Your Group to Our Group*



## YOU MAY THINK YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE

- SCHEDULING AND HOSTING MEETINGS
- FACILITATING DISCUSSIONS
- PROVIDING SNACKS
- SETTING UP SERVICE PROJECTS
- ORGANIZING SOCIALS AND RETREATS
- PROVIDING CARE

While these are all important **tasks**, they are not the sole responsibility of the leader. They are the responsibility of the group. The leader simply ensures they happen. It's a common misperception that group leadership is all about the details, but the reality is good leaders delegate.

## HELPING OTHERS PARTICIPATE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT MAKES GROUP BETTER.

Asking Group members to serve one another by taking on some of the tasks that make group happen, helps them to experience group in new and deeper ways. It creates a sense of ownership within the group and it translates to your group members being more invested in the groups relationships and more intentional about the growth the group is pursuing.

## ASK YOURSELF: HOW AM I INVOLVING MY GROUP MEMBERS SHARE OWNERSHIP?

As group members begin to take ownership of the group there's an added benefit, it allows you to focus on what only you, the leader, can do. Tasks often feel urgent, but they are never as important as responsibilities. Responsibilities are rarely urgent but extremely important. The unique responsibilities of group leaders are to: pay attention to the spiritual growth of everyone in the room and to create an environment where everyone has the opportunity to grow.

## Questions to Summarize the Leader's Responsibilities

1. What is God up to in the lives of my group members?
2. What can my group do to support it?

## When you share ownership it does three things:

1. Free yourself to focus on leading the group
2. Create a true sense of group ownership, making it our group
3. Creates a great first step toward replacing yourself and creating helping group members take steps of growth.



# PROVIDE CARE

***Caring for one another is not the same thing as providing care***

The way Groups support spiritual growth is to provide accountability, belonging, and care to each member. People connected in authentic community naturally care for one another, they do it almost unconsciously. Leaders not only help foster a caring environment in the group, great leaders also take the lead to provide care when members of the group experience pain or difficulty. At its most basic level, providing care means staying aware of what's going on in group members lives.

## PROVIDING CARE CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS

- REMEMBERING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES
- SHOWING UP WHEN IT COUNTS
- FOLLOWING UP WITH PRAYER REQUESTS
- SETTING UP A CALENDAR FOR PROVIDING MEALS
- ASKING ABOUT THE IMPORTANT THINGS MENTIONED
- CELEBRATING WITH THEM

**BE SURE TO LEAN INTO THE GROUP AND DELEGATE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.**

There are levels that go beyond a group's capacity to handle. A group isn't a twelve step program, a support group, or professional counseling. There are some situations groups aren't equipped to navigate. It's important to know your limits.

### **It's Important to Know Your Limits**

**There's a difference between providing care and becoming a caretaker.**

At a certain point, the way you can best care for a group member is by helping him or her connect with a church staff member who can provide deep pastoral care or get that group member in contact with a professional counselor.

## **HOW ARE YOU INVOLVING YOUR GROUP MEMBERS IN SUPPORTING THE GROUP?**

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH OVERVIEW

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT IT? <i>View</i>	HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT IT? <i>Language</i>	HOW DO WE DELIVER ON IT? <i>Strategy</i>	WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT IT? <i>Roles</i>
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**Growth is movement.**  
*It's a journey.*

- Any step forward is growth.
- Every step forward is progress.

**Growth is visible.**  
*It's a evident.*

- Faith demonstrates (Gal. 5)
- Love validates (John 13)

**The Goal**  
*Growth in 3 Relationships*

- Intimacy with God
- Community with Insiders
- Influence with Outsiders

*pg. 13*

**The Process**  
*Leveraging the 5 Catalysts*

- Faith demonstrates (Gal. 5)
- Love validates (John 13)

*pg. 14*

**Personally**  
*Take a step*  
Whatever the right next step is for a person.

**Missionally**  
*Fully engage*  
You won't grow fully unless you engage missionally.

- Connect
- Serve
- Give
- Invite

**The Individual**  
*Own*

- Stay engaged.
- Remain curious
- Take a step.

**The Group**  
*Support*

- Promote accountability
- Encourage belonging
- Provide Care

**The Leader**  
*Encourage*

- Ask Questions
  - How's God leading you?
  - How are you responding?
  - How can we help?
- Encourage participation.
- Model Transparency.

<u>Bottom Line</u> <i>Keep moving forward</i>	<u>Bottom Line</u> <i>Leverage the catalysts</i>	<u>Bottom Line</u> <i>Be fully engaged</i>	<u>Bottom Line</u> <i>Embrace your role</i>
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# 3 VITAL RELATIONSHIPS

We have identified three vital relationships that we believe each person should focus on if he or she desires to grow spiritually: a person's relationship with God, with other believers, and with unbelievers. Said differently, we define spiritual maturity as the pursuit of intimacy with God, community with insiders, and influence with outsiders.



## INTIMACY WITH GOD

- Where is God currently stretching me?
- Are my daily actions becoming more aligned with the priorities of Scripture?
- Are my times with God consistent?

## COMMUNITY WITH INSIDERS

- Am I openly sharing with others what is really going on in my life?
- As difficult circumstances arise, how are group members responding to one another?
- Are we willing to challenge one another in order to pursue God's best for our lives?

## INFLUENCE WITH OUTSIDERS

- Who am I regularly praying for who doesn't know Christ?
- What am I doing to connect with someone in my circle of influence who doesn't know Christ?
- Does my group challenge and encourage me to invest in someone who doesn't know Christ?

Intimacy with God is the foundation for the other two relationships. Without it, you can't have the others. As you lead, make sure you stay connected with your heavenly Father. Don't let the busyness that comes with leadership push him to the periphery.

# FIVE FAITH CATALYSTS



## *An Overview*

In observing people and listening to others describe their faith journeys, five things have consistently popped up in their stories. There seem to be five primary catalysts God uses to grow our faith. Paying attention to the Five Faith Catalysts is a great way to gain insight into how God may be working in your life and the lives of your group members.

## **PRACTICAL TEACHING**

Practical teaching is about learning biblical principles and applying them in our lives. Practical Biblical teaching moves people to action and is one of the primary things God uses to grow our faith.

## **PROVIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS**

God puts people in our paths that shape and influence us in extraordinary ways. Whether they are friendships we have maintained for years or new voices that drop in and out of our lives, these relationships allow us to hear from God.

## **PRIVATE DISCIPLINES**

God uses systematic prayer, Bible study, and generosity to grow our confidence in Him.

## **PERSONAL MINISTRY**

The relationship between our faith and our service of others.

## **PIVOTAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

Life is full of surprises; some good, some not so good. But each unexpected event that comes our way is actually a divine opportunity.



# LEADING THE FAITH CATALYSTS

*Ideas for group leaders with the Faith Catalysts*

## **PRACTICAL TEACHING**

- Choose curriculum that necessitate personal Bible Study.
- Choose curriculum that supports the 3 vital relationships.
- Orient your discussion time toward application not simply information.

## **PROVIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS**

- Create space in your life for relationships.
- Begin the early sessions with personal testimonies.
- Allow for social times regularly
- Multiply your group and apprentice another leader.

## **PRIVATE DISCIPLINES**

- Develop a consistent devotional life.
- Suggest devotional guides.
- Share ideas among your group how to have a quiet time.

## **PERSONAL MINISTRY**

- Participate as a group in a ministry project.
- Choose curriculum that focuses on serving.
- Involve every member in ministry to the group.

## **PIVOTAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

- Be sensitive to people's need to process.
- Provide Biblical guardrails for interpretation of current events.
- Bear one another's burdens.



# COMMUNITY IS MESSY

*Remember community is messy, here are 3 kinds of messes*

## Sin Mess

- When people do something outside the perfect will of God

## Relational Mess

- When there are differences of personalities or perspectives in group

## Life Mess

- When people's lives blow up because we live in a fallen world

## WALKING TOWARD THE MESS

- Acknowledge the mess.
- Categorize the mess (sin, relational, or life).
- Have the right perspective (think, what does the bible say about this?).
- Ask good questions.
- Talk to the right people.
- Communicate a biblical goal.
- Commit to the process.

# MANAGE EXPECTATIONS

*Growth never happens at our pace*

God will be at work in each person throughout the group, but it may not be at the pace or in the way you desire.

Know that sometimes life change happens years after the group. A seed that is planted takes time to grow.

# PRIORITIZE LISTENING OVER TALKING

Offer thoughts at the end of a discussion, amplify points as they come up, and ask good questions.

Avoid lecturing, and don't tell long and/or irrelevant stories.

Ask good questions, follow emotions, be okay with silence, and talk less.

# MODEL VULNERABILITY

*Your faith story sets the tone for everyone in the group*

For many of us, vulnerability is something we choose to avoid at all costs. Joining a group is uncomfortable, even in the best of circumstances. As the leader, you can lead the way in this. Share your highs, lows, and the journey of faith you've been on. When you demonstrate you trust the group it will show that the group is a safe place.

When we attempt to make ourselves look better, we miss the chance to give God the glory he deserves for changing us and making us new.

# STAYING IN TOUCH



*Best practices for staying for communicating with one another*

## GroupMe

Similar to a group text, but with Do-Not-Disturb mode and Leaders can ask questions, share prayer requests, and more.

## Facebook Groups

Each small group could set up their own Facebook group and stay in touch that way.

## Group Text

Some people love them, some people hate them. But if the group isn't too big, a group text is a great ways to stay in touch.

## Marco Polo

Marco Polo combines the convenience and privacy of texting and the ease and fun of social media. Send video or voice messages, do video calls or send text messages either in a group or 1:1.

## OTHER HELPFUL APPS



**YouVersion** - Bible App with multiple versions, reading plans, and sharing with friends.



**Pray App** - This app can help your group build a healthy habit of prayer and strong community.



**Doodle** - Find meeting times that work for everyone without the back and forth.



**Zoom** - Video environment for times you can't meet in person.



**Blue Letter Bible** - Bible study tools, commentaries, and theological resources.



# MAKE SOCIAL TIME MATTER

*Social time happens at the beginning of every group meeting, usually for 15-30 minutes.*

## Goal of Social Time

To create an informal environment where group members can unwind, connect, and laugh. It might be as casual as hanging out and eating snacks, or as structured as an organized game or ice-breaker. Here are four tips for a great social time:

### START LIGHT

Social time often provides a chance for group members to decompress and shift their focus towards others.

### MAINTAIN PREDICTABILITY

While social time is critical early in a group when relationships are new, over time some groups can spend too much time connecting socially at the beginning of group meetings. Use the Group Agreement as a tool to establish expectations on the amount of social time in group and revisit those expectations if needed.

### CONNECT OUTSIDE OF GROUP

Don't limit your social time to group meeting time. Community can happen as much between group meetings as it does within them.

### MAKE IT FUN

Social time in group provides a great opportunity to incorporate fun.

# CONNECT OUTSIDE OF GROUP

*Time Outside of Group is the Glue that Bonds Groups*



## IDEAS FOR CONNECTION

- Game Night
- Cookouts
- Movie Night
- Potluck
- Topgolf

- Serving with a Partner
- Cook-off / Bake-off
- Supply Drive
- Hiking / Camping Trip
- Escape Room



## SERVING AS A GROUP

*Your group and our community are better when you serve together*

Serving together can strengthen the relationships within your group while expanding the influence of your group. We ask all groups to serve twice each year: one during Be Rich in the fall, and once at a time convenient for you.

## IDEAS FOR SERVING TOGETHER

- **Serve with a Southside Partner**
- **Meet a need of someone in your neighborhood**
- **Serve a local nursing home**
- **Volunteer together in a ministry in the church**
- **Put together and distribute care boxes**



# ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS

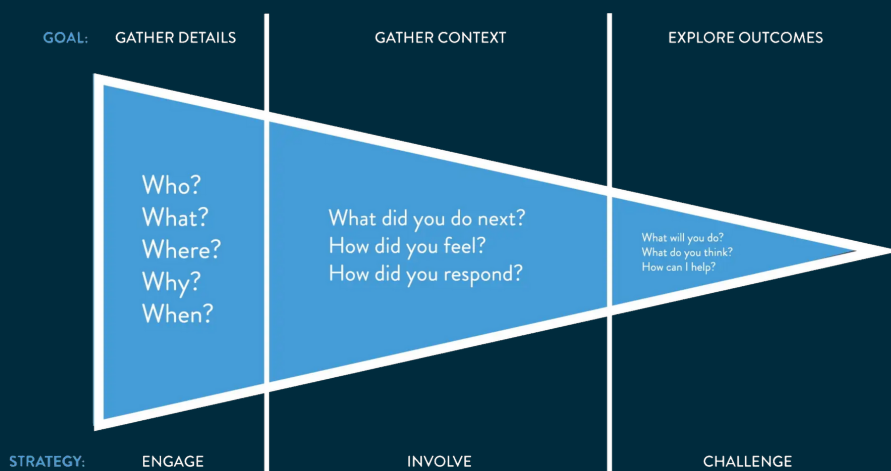
*In the New Testament, Jesus was asked 183 questions. He answered three of them.*

## Benefits of Asking Questions

1. They help people think for themselves, and that creates ownership.
2. They help people problem-solve.
3. The person asking the questions is in control of the conversation.

## What Makes a Good Question

Good questions are discovery-based, motivated by a genuine desire to understand and connect with the other person.



## 7 Types of Questions to Ask in Groups

1. **Launching** - Open Questions to set the tone and kick off discussion
2. **Clarifying** - Used to prompt members to think about the topic in new ways.
3. **Follow-up** - great for helping group members connect through shared experiences or emotions.
4. **Summarizing** - Help a group go deeper by consolidating the ideas they've been discussing.
5. **Applying** - questions help the group make a connection between the material you're discussing and their lives.
6. **Reversing** - pose a question back to the person who originally asked it.
7. **Relaying** - turn a question you've been asked over to the group or to a specific group member.

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH



## *The Group's role*

**Faith is personal, but that doesn't mean faith is private.** That's an important distinction. God designed us to grow not in isolation, but in relation. It is in the daily life of the believer, in communion with others, that faith is refined and made tangible. Ultimately, it's in the living it out, the application, and not the information, that we find growth.

## **3 Things to Help Group Members Grow Spiritually**

### **PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY**

As individuals, we aren't typically that great at recognizing our own strengths and areas of needed growth. When it comes to spiritual growth, groups can help individuals recognize their potential and offer accountability as they take next steps forward.

### **ENCOURAGE BELONGING**

When people feel a sense of belonging in community, it motivates them toward progress—not because they feel judged, but because they know the group has their best interests at heart. This is why relationships are so important in group. They provide fuel for healthy growth.

### **PROVIDE CARE**

In both big and small ways, providing care, works to shift perspectives and helps to meet emotional, spiritual, and physical needs. Care is a reflection of Jesus' command to us to love one another. But it also provides everyone in the group an opportunity to grow spiritually.





# INTENTIONAL MEMBER GROWTH

*Intentionality simply means you have a plan*

**Intentionality can be more art than science.**

**It can be helpful to ask yourself these questions:**

## ***HOW SPIRITUALLY MATURE ARE MY GROUP MEMBERS?***

Are they new to faith? Are they long-time Christians? Somewhere in between? Answering these questions will help you know how much to challenge your group members. Newer Christians may need to be introduced to ideas you take for granted. More seasoned Christians may need to be challenged to step outside of their well-worn comfort zones.

## ***DO MY GROUP MEMBERS LACK SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE OR SKILLS THAT PREVENTS THEM FROM GROWING?***

Do they need help understanding and practicing spiritual disciplines like reading the Bible and prayer? Do they need a new perspective on dating, marriage, or parenting? Answering questions like these can help you understand what kinds of studies and conversation will most benefit your group members.

## ***ARE THEY SERVING IN A MINISTRY?***

If the answer is no, it's almost always a great next step.

## ***HOW WELL IS YOUR GROUP CONNECTING RELATIONALLY?***

If things are stuck on the surface, that can be a major impediment to growth for everyone in the group. You may need to be intentional about modeling vulnerability and transparency so your group members feel safe to do the same.

# GROUP MEMBER ASSESSMENT

Helps you lead your group and determine best next steps



Answer the questions as honestly as possible using the following scale

<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>	<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>AGREE</b>	<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>
1	2	3	4

## ***Intimacy with God***

\_\_\_\_\_ The personal time I spend with God (devotions, personal Bible study, prayer, journaling, etc.) is improving the quality of my relationship with God.

\_\_\_\_\_ The approach I use in my personal time with God is effective.

\_\_\_\_\_ I currently devote sufficient time in my daily schedule for personal time with God.

\_\_\_\_\_ My daily actions are progressively aligning with the priorities of Scripture.

## ***Community with Insiders***

\_\_\_\_\_ *I am growing in my relationships with the other members of this group.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Members of my group regularly exhibit openness within the group.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Members of my group express interest in my needs and are available to help.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *The members of my group act on my requests for accountability.*

## ***Influence with Outsiders***

\_\_\_\_\_ *I am intentional about how I invest in my relationships with unbelievers.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I can explain my spiritual story to others.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I am confident in my ability to clearly share the Gospel to others.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *My group regularly expresses encouragement and concern about each others' personal relationships with unbelievers.*

## ***Overall***

\_\_\_\_\_ *I am currently experiencing vibrant growth in my relationship with God.*



# GROUP COMMUNION

## *How to Lead Communion in Your Group*

**Your Group is a great place to celebrate communion!**

God invites us to celebrate communion as often as we feel appropriate.

In fact, Christians in the early church met on a regular basis, in their homes, to celebrate communion together (see Acts 2:42-47)

### WHAT YOU NEED

• Bread

• Juice

• Cups

### STEP 1: READ

As you begin your time, read a selected passage of Scripture that reminds the group the reasons we celebrate communion, which are three fold: thanksgiving, communion with God and other believers, and remembrance of Christ's sacrifice and finished work on the cross.

- Isaiah 53 & Galatians 2:16-21
- Mark 15:21-29 & Ephesians 2:1-10
- Psalm 22 & 1 Corinthians 15:1-8
- John 19 & Philipians 2:1-11

### STEP 2: REFLECT & PRAY

After Scripture, give the group time to reflect on Christ's life, death, resurrection and return. Pray about the following:

- **Confess** sins to God and acknowledge your need for a savior.
- **Express** gratitude for the freedom we find in Jesus.

### STEP 3: EAT

Have each member get a piece of bread. The bread represents the body of Christ, which was given for us. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-24. Then eat together.

### STEP 4: DRINK

Have each member take a cup of juice. The juice represents the blood of Jesus which He gave to secure the New Covenant with God. Read 1 Corinthians 11:25-26. Drink. Close in prayer.

# MULTIPLYING YOUR GROUP

*Have a plan for growth and what's next*



## **Begin with the End in Mind**

Groups end well when they plan for it. It usually takes time for group members to buy into the idea of multiplication. It also takes time to take the steps for multiplication. Last-minute multiplication rarely works. Take some time early in your group's life to determine what steps will set you up for multiplication. Plan out when you should take those steps.

## **Cast a Vision for Multiplication**

Talk about multiplication regularly throughout the life of your group to reinforce the value for multiplying. Ask your group members who they're investing in. This demonstrates that you value multiplication.

## **Invest & Invite Approach to Multiplying**

Help your group identify people they can invest in. Suggest some practical action steps. Focus the meeting's prayer time on these relationships.

## **Identify and Develop an Apprentice**

This communicates to your group members that you're actively replacing yourself and value multiplication. It will also give you someone to help prepare for multiplication.

## **Anticipate Pushback and Use it to Recast Vision**

The good news is that when group members resist multiplication, it's usually because they love their group. People who are experiencing authentic community tend not to want to mess with success. But their love of their small group is the best advertisement for multiplying. Remind them that they've had the opportunity to experience community because someone else valued group life enough to multiply and create space for them.



# LANDING YOUR GROUP

*The last four months of your group*

A lot of times, groups aren't excited about multiplying. It can be challenging on an emotional level. But a group that does it well increases its influence exponentially — both through the continued growth of its members and by inviting others into life-changing community.

## 4 Things for Ending Well

### **1. Meet with Your Groups Director**

Your Groups Director will help you and your group as you prepare to land and multiply. 3 - 4 months before landing set up a time to meet with your groups director to form a game plan.

### **2. Talk About "It"**

Good groups will never want to end, but you can't end well without talking about it.

- Remind your group that you're nearing the end.
- Plan your calendar so you can end with celebration, encouragement, and fun.

### **3. Discuss Next Steps**

The group's end is a perfect time to intentionally encourage and challenge each other.

- Speak into one another's lives.
- Present opportunities for future connection or leadership; urge people toward a commitment.

### **4. Celebrate Successes**

If we value spiritual growth, we need to identify and celebrate it.

- Celebrate the growth you've experienced as a group.
- Remember what you've shared together.

# RESOURCES



*Helpful websites and resources for you and your group*

## CURRICULUM



### Weekly Sermon Discussion Questions

- [southside.org/questions](https://southside.org/questions)



### RightNow Media - Think Netflix for Bible Studies

- <https://accounts.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/>



### Anthology - Online Bible Studies from North Point

- <https://accounts.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/>

## LEADER WEBSITES



### Southside Group Leaders Site

- [groupleaders.info](https://groupleaders.info)



### North Point Group Leaders Site

- <https://accounts.rightnow.org/Account/Invite/>

## SOCIAL MEDIA



### Southside Group Leaders Facebook Group

- [facebook.com/groups/SouthsideGroupLeaders](https://facebook.com/groups/SouthsideGroupLeaders)



### Southside Group Leaders on Instagram

- [@southside\\_groupleaders](https://instagram.com/southside_groupleaders)

## SOUTHSIDE



### Groups Director

- Meet with you 2 - 3 times/year for group coaching
- Monthly email group tips
- Anytime resource for problem solving / coaching



### Huddles

- Learn / Share / Connect with other group leaders (~2 times/year)



### Leader Gatherings

- Multi-leader gathering/training event focused on skills as a leader



# GROUPS CURRICULUM GUIDE

*Creating a Group Study Plan*

## Tips for Creating Your Curriculum Plan

### BALANCE

- **Pick studies from multiple sections** - God / Me / Others
- **Vary the type of study** - Video / Books / Sermon Discussion
- **Scripture** - Scripture is a vital component of any study
- **Don't always do a study** - Schedule regular time off and socials

### CONSIDER YOUR GROUP'S CAPACITY

It's not great to go from one heavy study to the next. Balance studies with more preparation time (especially those that require homework like books) with those that allow group members to show up with little to no preparation.

### FOCUSING ON TOPICS OF INTEREST

- Be sure to cover a range of topics
- Remember to focus on Scripture during your time together

### ASK YOURSELF

Spiritually, where are my group members now, and what might be their best next steps?



# CURRICULUM SUGGESTIONS

## Section 1 - GOD

### The Gospel

### Private Disciplines

### Scripture

#### Videos

- **Who Needs God**  
(Andy Stanley) - whoneedsgod.com
- **Aftermath**  
(Andy Stanley) - rightnowmedia.org
- **Starting Point**  
(Andy Stanley) - Anthology.Study
- **Follow**  
(Andy Stanley) - rightnowmedia.org
- **A Contrarian's Guide to Knowing God**  
(Larry Osborne) - rightnowmedia.org

#### Videos

- **Connect With God**  
(Clay Scroggins) - groupleaders.org
- **Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith**  
(Andy Stanley) - rightnowmedia.org
- **Prayer Dashboard**  
groupleaders.squarespace.com/prayerdashboard
- **Spiritual Growth**  
(Clay Scroggins) - groupleaders
- **The Bible Project: How to Read the Bible**  
(Tim Mackie) - RightNow Media
- **Spiritual Rhythms**  
southside.org/spiritual-rhythms

#### Videos

- **Core vs. Periphery**  
(Tim Cooper) - Anthology
- **Bible Project Videos:**
  - **What is the Bible?**
  - **Story of the Bible**
- **The Bible Project: How to Read the Bible**  
(Tim Mackie) - rightnowmedia.org
- **Bible30-Day Reading Plan (On Jesus' Life)**
- **Psalms 23**  
Matt Chandler - RightNow Media
- **The Books of 1, 2, 3rd John**  
(Tony Evans) - RightNow Media
- **The Book of Colossians**  
(Louie Giglio) - RightNow Media
- **The Book of Titus**  
(Chip Ingram)
- **Galatians**
- **1st Peter**  
(Kyle Idleman) - RightNow Media
- **Rooted in the Word**  
RightNow Media

#### Books

- **Eternity is Now in Session**  
(John Ortberg)
- **Ragamuffin Gospel**  
(Brennan Manning)
- **Prodigal God**  
(Tim Keller)
- **How Good is Good Enough?**  
(Stanley)
- **Mere Christianity**  
(C.S. Lewis)
- **The Reason for God**  
(Tim Keller)
- **Jesus Christ**  
(John Stott)

#### Books

- **Good & Beautiful God**  
(James Bryan Smith)
- **The Spirit of the Disciplines**  
(Dallas Willard)
- **Celebration of Discipline**  
(Richard Foster)
- **Sacred Rhythms**  
(Ruth Haley Barton)
- **Growth: Training vs. Trying**  
(Andy Stanley)

#### Scripture

- Matthew 6
- Hebrews 12
- Psalm 119

#### Scripture

- Ephesians 1-2:10
- Colossians 1-2
- 1 Corinthians 15
- Romans 3

#### Books

- **SOURCE Studies**  
(groupleaders.org)
  - **Abraham**
  - **Galatians**
  - **James**
  - **Jonah & Nahum**
  - **Mission**
  - **Ruth & Esther**
- **How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth**  
(Gordon Fee)

#### Scripture

- Matthew 6
- Hebrews 12
- Psalm 119





# CURRICULUM SUGGESTIONS

## Section 2 - ME

### Identity

#### Videos

- **You'll Be Glad You Did**  
(Andy Stanley)  
series.northpointministries.org
- **Free**  
(Andy Stanley)  
series.northpointministries.org
- **Gospel Identity**  
(Brody Jespersen)  
rightnowmedia.org
- **I Am**  
(Matt Fry)  
rightnowmedia.org
- **The End of Me**  
(Kyle Idleman) - RightNow
- **Goliath Must Fall**  
(Louie Giglio) - RightNow

#### Books

- **The Cure**  
(Lynch, Thrall, McNickol)
- **The Me I Want to Be**  
(John Ortberg)
- **The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry**  
(John Mark Comer)
- **Dream Big**  
(Bob Goff)
- **The Gift of Being Yourself**  
(David Benner)

#### Scripture

- Galatians 1-6
- Romans 5, 8
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

### Self-Awareness

#### Videos

- **Climate Change**  
(Jeff Henderson)  
anthology.study
- **Take Assessment as a Group and Discuss**  
groupleaders.org
  - **Spiritual Pathways**
  - **Spiritual Gifts**
  - **Enneagram**
- **I Said This You Heard That**  
(Kathleen Edelman)
- **Uprising**  
(Erwin McManus) - RightNow
- **Younique Primer**  
(Dave Rhodes) - RightNow

#### Books

- **Emotionally Healthy Spirituality**  
(Pete Sczazero)
- **The Road Back to You**  
(Cron & Stabile)
- **Rising Strong**  
(Brené Brown)
- **A Tale of Three Kings**  
(Gene Edwards)
- **Growth: Training vs. Trying**  
(John Ortberg & Laurie Pederson)

#### Scripture

- Psalm 139
- Proverbs 18

### Priorities

#### Videos

- **Breathing Room**  
(Andy Stanley)  
series.northpointministries.org
- **Pace**  
(Billy Phenix)  
anthology.study
- **See the World**  
(Andy Stanley)  
yourmove.is/videos/
- **Ask It**  
(Andy Stanley)  
series.northpointministries.org
- **How to Get What You Really Want**  
(Andy Stanley)  
series.northpointministries.org
- **Spiritual Simplicity**  
(Chip Ingram) - RightNow
- **If Money Talked**  
(Andy Stanley) - Anthology

#### Books

- **When Work and Family Collide**  
(Andy Stanley)
- **Fields of Gold**  
(Andy Stanley)
- **Your Life Well Spent**  
(Russ Crosson)
- **Finishing Strong**  
(Steve Farrar)
- **Ask It**  
(Andy Stanley)

#### Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 9-10
- Matthew 6:19-34
- James 4
- Philipians 2

### Character

#### Videos

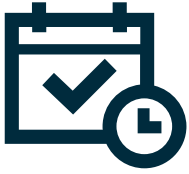
- **What Makes You Happy**  
(Andy Stanley) - groupleaders.org
  - **Guardrails**  
(Andy Stanley) - guardrails.org
  - **David**  
(Andy Stanley) - RightNow Media
  - **Me & My Big Mouth**  
(Andy Stanley) - Anthology.study
  - **How Not to Be Your Own Worst Enemy**  
(Andy Stanley) - Anthology.study
  - **Your Comeback**  
(Tony Evans) - RightNow Media
  - **IF**  
(Mark Batterson) - RightNow
  - **In the Dust of the Rabbi: Faith Lessons**  
(Ray Vander Laan) - RightNow
  - **Gospel in Life**  
(Tim Keller) - RightNow

#### Books

- **Enemies Of The Heart**  
(Andy Stanley)
- **Louder Than Words**  
(Andy Stanley)
- **Humility**  
(Andrew Murray)
- **God in My Everything**  
(Ken Shigematsu)

#### Scripture

- Psalm 15
- Matthew 23
- Philipians 21
- Timothy 3:1-13



# CURRICULUM SUGGESTIONS

## Section 3 - OTHERS

### Marriage

#### Videos

- **What Happy Couples Know**  
(Andy Stanley) - anthology
- **Reconcilable Differences**  
(Gavin Adams) - anthology
- **State of Your Marriage**  
(Brody Jespersen) - group leaders
- **The Power of Words**  
(Ted Lowe) - group leaders.org
- **Your Time Starved Marriage**  
(Les & Leslie Parrott) rightnowmedia.org
- **The Crazy Cycle**  
(Emerson Eggerichs) rightnowmedia.org
- **Kindness Challenge**  
(Shaunti Feldman) - RightNow
- **One Thing(s)**  
(Orange)
- **The Meaning of Marriage**  
(Tim & Kathy Keller) - RightNow
- **Goals**  
(Hendersons and Stanleys)

#### Books

- **For Men Only**
- **For Women Only**  
(Shaunti & Jeff Feldhahn)
- **The Five Love Languages**  
(Gary Chapman)
- **What Radical Husbands Do**  
(Regi Campbell)
- **The Meaning of Marriage**  
(Tim Keller)

#### Scripture

- Ephesians 5:21-6:4
- Colossians 3

### Parenting

#### Videos

- **Parenting Unscripted**  
(Andy Stanley & Others) parentunscripted.com
- **Fathering on Purpose**  
(John Woodall) - anthology
- **Parenting Through the Phases**  
(Orange)
- **Future Family**  
(Andy Stanley) - group leaders
- **Parenting - 14 Gospel Principles**  
(Paul Tripp) - RightNow Media
- **Intentional Parenting**  
(Doug Fields) - RightNow Media
- **Raising Kingdom Kids**  
(Tony Evans) - RightNow Media
- **Sacred Parenting**  
(Gary Thomas) - RightNow Media

#### Books

- **Loving Kids on Purpose**  
(Danny Silk)
- **You Have What it Takes**  
(John Eldredge)
- **No More Perfect Moms**  
(Jill Savage)
- **Raising Good Humans**  
(Hunter Clark-Fields)
- **Intentional Parenting**  
(Doug Fields)
- **Parenting with Heart**  
(Stephen James & Chip Dodd)
- **Parenting with Love & Logic**  
(Foster Cline & Jim Fay)

#### Scripture

- Ephesians 6:4
- Colossians 3

### Community

#### Videos

- **Adress the Mess**  
(Andy Stanley) - series.northpointministries.org
- **Vulnerability**
- **Empathy**  
(Brené Brown) brenebrown.com
- **Unity: John 17**  
(Andy Stanley)

#### Books

- **The Good and Beautiful Community**  
(James Bryan Smith)
- **Move Toward the Mess**  
(John Hambrick)
- **Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them**  
(John Ortberg)
- **Bo's Cafe**  
(John Lynch)

#### Scripture

- Acts 2:42-47
- Romans 12
- Ephesians 4
- John 17

### Influence

#### Videos

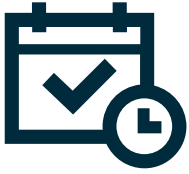
- **Everyday Evangelism**  
(Tim Cooper) - group leaders
- **Icebreakers**  
(Gavin Adams) - Anthology
- **Radical Hospitality**  
(Richard Beck) - group leaders
- **Dream Job**  
(Jeff Henderson) - Anthology
- **See the World: Success**  
(Adam Johnson) - Anthology
- **Christian**  
(Andy Stanley) - NorthPoint
- **Brand New**  
(Andy Stanley) - NorthPoint

#### Books

- **Visioneering**  
(Andy Stanley)
- **About My Father's Business**  
(Regi Campbell)
- **Humility**  
(Andrew Murray)
- **Love Does**  
(Bob Goff)
- **Everybody Always**  
(Bob Goff)
- **Strengths Finder**  
(Tom Rath)
- **In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day**  
(Mark Batterson)

#### Scripture

- Matthew 5
- Colossians 3
- Romans 12
- 1 Corinthians 12



# CURRICULUM SUGGESTIONS

## Section 4 - More / Other

### General

#### Videos

- **[The Bible Project: Church at Home](#)**  
(The Bible Project) - bibleproject.com
- **[Choose](#)**  
(Donna Lamothe) - RightNow Media
- **[Take Your Life Back](#)**  
(Stephen Arterburn) - RightNow Media
- **[Grace of God and Flaws of Men](#)**  
(Anand Mahadevan) - RightNow Media
- **[The Reason for God](#)**  
(Tim Elmore) - RightNow Media
- **[Makers Discipleship Series](#)**  
(Patrick Annotti) - RightNow Media
- **[The Four Dimensions of Self Leadership](#)**  
(Jenni Catron) - RightNow Media
- **[The Art of Neighboring](#)**  
(Dave Runyon, Jay Pathak) - RightNow Media
- **[Core vs. Periphery](#)**  
(Tim Cooper) - Anthology
- **[Better](#)**  
(Andy Stanley) - Anthology
- **[The Bible for Grown-Ups](#)**  
(Andy Stanley) - Anthology
- **[How to Get What You Really Want](#)**  
(Andy Stanley) - Anthology
- **[Race in America](#)**  
(Phil Vischer) - RightNow Media
- **[Race and the Gospel](#)**  
(Bryan Loritts, Matt Chandler) - RNM
- **[Changes that Heal](#)**  
(Henry Cloud) - RightNow Media
- **[Whisper](#)**  
(Mark Batterson) - RightNow Media
- **[12 Neighbors](#)**  
(12 Neighbors) - RightNow Media
- **[Communication](#)**  
(Henry Cloud) - RightNow Media

### Women

#### Videos

- **[Present Over Perfect](#)**  
(Shauna Niequist) - groupleaders.org
- **[The Best Yes](#)**
- **[Unglued](#)**  
(Lysa TerKeurst) - groupleaders.org
- **[The Dream of You](#)**
- **[The Book of Philippians](#)**  
(Jo Saxton) - RightNow Media
- **[Free of Me](#)**
- **[Nice](#)**  
(Sharon Hodde Miller) - RightNow Media
- **[Not Alone: A Study on Friendship](#)**
- **[The Good Gospel](#)**
- **[Get Out of Your Head](#)**  
(Jennie Allen) - RightNow Media
- **[What the Women Saw](#)**
- **[Miracles of Jesus](#)**  
(Sadie Robertson Huff, Jennie Allen, Bianca Juárez Olthoff, Jada Edwards) - RightNow
- **[Living Life Together](#)**  
(Shauna Niequist) - RightNow Media
- **[Every Good Gift](#)**  
(Ann Voskamp) - RightNow Media
- **[Verbs of God](#)**  
(Margaret Feinberg) - RightNow Media
- **[Mom Core](#)**  
(Karen Stubbs) - groupleaders.org
- **[Perfect Love](#)**  
(Lisa Harper) - RightNow Media

#### Books

- **[Matchless](#)**  
(Angie Smith)
- **[Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved](#)**  
(Kate Bowler)
- **[Nothing to Prove](#)**  
(Jennie Allen)
- **[Fervent](#)**  
(Priscilla Shirer)
- **[Present over Perfect](#)**  
(Shauna Niequist)

### Men

#### Videos

- **[Men: Hidden](#)**  
(John Lynch) - Anthology
- **[Fathering on Purpose](#)**  
(John Woodall) - Anthology
- **[33 The Series \(Vol 1\): A Man and His Design](#)**
- **[33 The Series \(Vol 3\): A man and his Traps](#)**  
(Authentic Manhood) - RightNow Media
- **[Nine Attributes of a Man](#)**  
(Vince Miller) - RightNow Media
- **[Seven Questions that Rattle in the Minds of Most Men](#)**  
(John Woodall) - RightNow Media
- **[Be a Godly Man](#)**  
(Joby Martin) - RightNow Media
- **[Men: Coaches](#)**  
(Gavin Adams) - Anthology
- **[Men: Hand Check](#)**  
(Gavin Adams) - Anthology
- **[WIN](#)**  
(Clay Scroggins) - RightNow Media

#### Books

- **[Five Marks of a Man](#)**  
(Brian Tome)
- **[Manhood Restored](#)**  
(Eric Mason)
- **[Uncommon](#)**  
(Tony Dungy)
- **[Healing the Masculine Soul](#)**  
(Gordon Dalbey)
- **[The Christian Man](#)**  
(Patrick Morley)
- **[Waking the Dead](#)**  
(John Eldredge)