



Welcome: Here is what you need in order to launch well.

While there is no formula to guarantee a successful small group, there are a few things you can do to help your group start well.

Before you Launch:

- **Dream** about what kind of community and environment you create to develop meaningful relationships with God and one another.
- **Pray** about who God might be leading to your group and that your connections to one another would be a catalyst for everyone in the group to grow in their relationship with God and as disciples of Jesus.
- **Invite** people God has placed in your sphere of influence. Think of those you feel a tug on your heart to invest in and share the love of Christ with.
- **Define a time, place, and plan** and begin to **communicate to your potential group members**.

Share Resources with Your Group:

- **KidCare reimbursement**-prestontrail.org/kidcare
- **RightNow Media access**-RightNowMedia.org/Account/Invite/PrestonTrail
- **Refer to “Suggested Curriculum Guide” to choose a study**

Social Gathering and First Group Meeting:

- Have an **initial social gathering**.
 - Structure your time to be mostly fun and relational. Outline a clear plan for the upcoming season.
 - **Smile First**, making people feel expected and accepted.
- In your **First Group Meeting**:
 - Ask everyone to share their hopes and excitement about the group.
 - Have a discussion on the ground rules-*reference your ground rules card*.
 - Use the story of The Lost Son to have an intimate discussion and model the ground rules-*reference Empower Session One*.
 - Include a time to cover group schedule and specific plans for any study content.
 - Talk through who can be a “host home” for your group to meet in.
- Make sure everyone knows what day and time you are meeting and where.
- Ask someone in the group to collect and organize everyone’s preferred method of communication (i.e. GroupMe, email, Facebook, group text).



First Month:

- Pray and consider who in your group could be identified as a leader apprentice.
- Connect with the members of your group weekly through phone, text or email. These connections increase the likelihood that members will prioritize meeting.
- Reach out to your coach to let them know how your group is doing and communicate any needs or questions you have for your group.
- Meet one-on-one with at least one group member or couple. Begin to form rich friendships.
- Ask someone in the group to plan a social outing for the group.
- Reminder: Consistently pray for your group members by name; reach out personally to group members with encouragement and prayer.

Second Month:

- Consider how your group is doing in the four key areas: Intentional Leaders, Relational Environment, Biblical Foundation, Reproducible Discipleship Process.
- Continue to pray and consider who in your group could be identified as a leader apprentice; initiate any conversations with the person(s) you have identified.
- Meet one-on-one with at least one group member or couple.
- Start talking about your next study with your group members.
- Reminder: The most important thing you can do as a leader is to stay connected to God. Consistently ask yourself the question, “Did God make my calendar today?”

Third Month:

- Meet one-on-one with at least one group member or couple.
- Consider various ways your group can serve in the community.
- Order your next study.
- If your apprentice is identified, share with your group who it is and allow the sharing of leader responsibilities.
- Let someone else lead the discussion at the meeting; continue to delegate leading and other responsibilities within the group.
- Reminder: Work with your coach to schedule a one-on-one.