

# smallgroups

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Thank you so much for considering Small Group Leadership. Small Groups are such an integral part of our church vision. The Bridge Church is passionate about helping people find and follow Jesus. This Small Group leader guide is designed to give you the resources you need to maximize the gifts and passions that God has already placed inside you. It's exciting to welcome you as a Small Group Leader, and it is our privilege to give you the opportunity to help people know Christ and grow in Christ. The goal of this training is to equip and empower you to successfully lead a Bridge Church small group.

## What is a Small Group?

**A small group at the Bridge Church, is a gathering of people who seek to help each other become more like Christ.**

The purpose of small groups isn't to simply have a small group, but a small group is the vehicle for lives to be changed in community.

Through small groups, you have the opportunity to build relationships with each other, grow spiritually, and serve on mission together. Small groups may be formed around a *life stage, a topic, an activity* or *common interest*.

Jesus was a small group leader. Jesus spent a majority of His time with the disciples. A disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ who lives in biblical community and is committed to becoming more like Him. Through His investment into their life, the early church grew and reached many that were lost. Jesus wanted to invest into their hearts the mission of making disciples. Jesus proclaimed the kingdom to large crowds. Likewise, He met with small groups in homes (Mt. 26:6) and spent considerable time with His disciples. 2,000 years ago, Jesus invited a handful of men and said, "Follow me."

Small groups were the backbone of the early church, and the same is true today. In the books of Acts, we read the story of the early church living a new way of life among a new community of Christ-followers.

*And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."<sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. **Matthew 4:19-20** (ESV)*

*And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* **Matthew 28:18-20** (ESV)

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**The early church was a movement gathered around a mission.**

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. **Acts 2:42-47** (ESV)

The early church had huge impact on the course of history for Christ. Our model for small group ministry is the early church. Small groups were the foundation of the early church.

**At the Bridge Church, we believe our church must grow larger and smaller at the same time.**

We want to make that kind of difference for southwest Florida and the world, and we're doing it by building a culture disciples who make disciples.

“(They met) day after day, in the Temple courts and from house to house.” **Acts 5:42**

Every Group must provide an opportunity for:

## 1) Building Relationships

We want our Small Groups to form genuine relationships with each other so that they can do life together.

The small groups in the early church “devoted themselves...to the fellowship” and “ate together in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts.” If you want to grow in your relationship with Jesus, you need to have intentional relationships with people who have the same goal—and Small Group is the ideal place for that.

We were made to have a relationship with God and with others in the hopes of becoming more like Christ (Colossians 3.12-17). While we can’t be deeply connected to everyone, we can be deeply connected to some. When we are open to share, pray, and care for one another, our relationships deepen, and we help each other grow (Hebrews 10.24).

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” **John 13:34-35***

*“Community matters. That’s about like saying that oxygen matters. As our lungs require air, so our souls require air, so our souls require what only community provides. We were designed by our Trinitarian God (who is Himself a group of three persons in profound relationship with each other) to live in relationship.” **Larry Crabb***

**Questions** for a Small Group Leader:

- How are your friendships with other Christ-followers?
- How are you serving and caring for other members in your group?
- In what ministry at our church are you serving in?

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## 2) Growing Spiritually

We believe that real Christ-followers grow together (Ephesians 4.1-3).

We see that the early church was “devoted to the apostles teaching...” (verse 42). We ask our Small Groups to study God’s Word (Hebrews 4:12), have Christ-centered discussions, and encourage each other to become more like Christ in all areas of life (1 Thessalonians 2:8). The key to growing as a Small Group Leader is to help identify where people are and what it will take to help them get to take the next step. **Regardless of the type of group, the purpose of each one is to create an environment where we can grow to become more like Jesus.**

*We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God’s Good News but our own lives, too. 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT)*

“Studying and applying the Word of God has the power to change us from what we are into what God has in mind for us.”

**Questions** for a Small Group Leader:

- What book or passage have you been studying from God’s Word?
- What specifically has God been teaching you from that book or passage?
- How have you been applying what you have learned in everyday life?

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### 3) Serving Others

Small Groups serve on mission together in their community and world to bring about the hope of Jesus.

Small groups in the early church were “...and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (verse 47).

We see the early church being devoted to the Mission of Christ by serving the community, sharing the Gospel with the lost, and developing future leaders to carry out the mission. We also ask our Small Groups to develop future leaders who can in turn impact other people.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. **Hebrews 10:24-25***

*Our relationship with each other is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful. Christian community is the final apologetic.” **Francis Schaeffer***

#### Questions for a Small Group Leader:

- Who is someone that you recently shared the gospel with?
- How are you serving and reaching out to our city?
- Who is a family, friend, co-worker, or neighbor that you have not shared the gospel with and when will you do so?

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#### How to Succeed as A Small Group Leader

Small groups leaders are the heartbeat of The Bridge Church.

The health of a small group starts with the health of the small group leader. If the group leader isn't growing, you can forget about the small group growing. If you want to gauge the health of the group, put the thermometer in the group leader's mouth.

Small groups are key to the health and growth of the church. Small group leaders are responsible for the vision, direction and support of their small group.

***Think about it with me...***

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*If the group leader is not being honest, why would the group be compelled to honesty?*

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*If the group leader is not living life in integrity, why would the group be compelled to live differently?*

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*If the group leader is not spending time with God regularly, how can she lead others spiritually?*

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*If the group leader is not exercising his prayer life, does he really believe prayer works?*

*So, we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. <sup>29</sup> That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me. Colossians 1:28-29*

**Activity** [five minutes]

## Define the vision for your Small Group

Small group leaders are responsible for the vision, direction and support of their small group. Take a few minutes and write down your initial thoughts about the vision you have for your Small Group. Here are a few questions to get you thinking:

*What kind of relationships do you picture developing in your group?*

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*How would you like to see people grow because of your group?*

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*How will the community and world be affected because of your group?*

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A Successful Small Group Leader...

- Is a follower of Jesus in a growing relationship with Him.
- Is passionate about group members growing in their relationship with Jesus.
- Is committed to Biblical standards.
- Is actively DEVELOPING a co-leader. This may be the most fulfilling accomplishment of leadership: helping someone find his/her purpose in God by learning to help others.
- Cultivates a LIFE-GIVING atmosphere. Be a source of encouragement. You do not need to know all the answers or be the source of all wisdom. The Holy Spirit is there to help and guide you.
- Provides care, guidance, and encouragement to the group.
- Fosters an environment where spiritual growth and genuine friendships take place.
- Teaches group members how to think and live on mission.
- Ensures that the group has an opportunity for:
  - ✓ *Relationships*
  - ✓ *Growth*
  - ✓ *Serving others*

## Small Group Guidelines

- What is said in group, stays in group (unless you are hurting yourself or someone else).
- Small Group is a safe place to share.
- Talk with each other and not at each other.
- Keep the discussion POSITIVE. Carefully lead the conversation back to the topic when tangents occur. Where sensitive issues or complex questions arise in your group, follow up one-on-one after the meeting.
- No side conversations.
- Men should MINISTER to men and women to women. Couples may minister to a single.
- Prayer requests are not gossip.
- Stay on track with the Bible discussion.

## How to Launch a Small Group

### The Process

1. Be a member of the Bridge Church - or be in the membership process with at least 90 days of regular attendance.
2. Complete the Growth Path - or have registered for the next Growth Path class.
3. Attend Small Group Leadership Training
4. Complete the Small Group Leader Application and one-on-one interview.
5. Agree to honor the Small Group leadership expectations.



## **1. *Pray***

This may seem like the cliché churchy thing to state, but studies show that the differentiating factor between groups that succeed and those that don't are not necessarily the personality of the leader, the location, time, or any typically expected factors. Rather, the most successful groups are those whose leaders spend much time praying for the group and the people who God will be entrusting them with. Be sure that you ask the Lord to show you whom to invite and that the Lord opens their hearts and draws them to your group.

## **2. *Invite***

It's not surprising that a key part to launching a Small Group is actually having people there! And no, God does not send the Small Group stork to drop a couple of new Small Group members for you. You need to look for them! So, as you pray, invite people from church, friends, family members, neighbors and co-workers. We know this can seem a little challenging (and nerve-wracking), but you will be surprised at how God starts opening the hearts of the people. Remember, they won't come to your Small Group until you invite them. So, start inviting!

## **3. *Set a Launch Date***

Once you have prayed and invited people to your Small Group, set a launch date and stay faithful to it. If a start date is not solidified, the group launch will be dragged on and will never get off the ground. Whether it's 10 people, or just you and two other people, make sure you start and watch the Lord add people during the upcoming weeks.

Questions? Contact us at [smallgroups@tbcvenice.com](mailto:smallgroups@tbcvenice.com)

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## **How to Develop a Co-Leader**

As a Small Group Leader who embodies the vision of The Bridge Church and where we are going as a church, it's our expectation that you are thinking of the next generation of Small Group Leaders. You are thinking about those in your group that can take the mantle of leadership and step into their own Small Group. Thus, we are introducing the role of a 'Co-Leader' within our Small Groups.

## **DEFINING A CO-LEADER:**

A 'co-leader' is someone who is learning to lead a Small Group by observing and helping with a current group.

- They learn by doing, under the supervision of a seasoned (mature and skilled) leader. Co-leading is closely related to mentoring – a developmental relationship in which a more experienced person helps a less experienced person.
- They grow in maturity along with the rest of the Small Group, but he or she receives special attention and more pointed direction from the mentoring leader.

## **HOW TO SELECT A CO-LEADER:**

A Small Group Co-Leader is an emerging leader. This person is someone who has been identified by you, the group leader, as a good candidate for leading a future group, based on a variety of observations. They include, but are not limited to:

- A growing relationship with Christ and passion for the vision of The Bridge Church.
- An understanding of the role and the ability to live out the role as defined in the 'Expectations of a group Leader' section earlier in this manual.
- A person that you would least like to lose from your group. It's true that the person you would least like to lose is probably the person that you need to raise up and send out the most.

## **HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR CO-LEADER:**

As important as it is to select the right co-leader, it's equally important to mentor the group co-leader. Follow these four steps:

- 1. MODEL.** Have your Co-Leader watch as you do the ministry, just as Jesus did with his disciples (Matthew 9:32–38). Let them see a highly effective Small Group leader in action.
- 2. MENTOR.** Next, have your Co-Leader take over some responsibilities or lead various aspects of the group as you watch, assist, correct, and encourage—again, just as Jesus did with his disciples (Matthew 10:1).
- 3. MOTIVATE.** Encourage your Co-Leader to act on the potential that God has placed inside of them.
- 4. MULTIPLY.** Work toward transition. The goal is for the Co-Leader to eventually be confident enough to lead a group of his or her own. The timeframe and the look of the transition will vary from group to group; that is okay. The important thing is for the process of development to take place and for new leaders to be raised up.

# Typical Small Group Meeting

Estimated Time: 1.5-2 hours

## **Before Group:**

- Email, text, or call members the day before meeting and keep communication short and sweet
- Preview lesson and discussion questions
- Pray for your group and group time
- Make sure your small group environment is clean, presentable, and food is prepared (optional but recommended)

## **During Group:**

- Begin with greeting and fellowship
- Assign a time-keeper
- Watch or facilitate the Bible teaching and have gospel-centered discussion. Not all questions have to be answered to finish the lesson, so just relax and enjoy your group.

## **After Group:**

- After your small group, you can dismiss your group, or choose to handout a bit longer. Make sure you plan a serving project at least once during each quarter.
  - We recommend splitting up men/women for a closing prayer time (set aside 15 minutes)
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# Small Group FAQ's

## 1. What should I do if someone asks a question I can't answer?

That will happen! Here is your response. "I appreciate that question(s) and I don't know the answer to that, but I will do my best to find out this week and get back with you at our next Small Group meeting." Follow up with personal research; call your Small Group Pastor to get advice. You may not have the answers at that time, but you do have other resources available to help.

Helpful website for biblical answers: [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)

## 2. How do I facilitate a Bible discussion?

While curriculum is a great place to start with group discussions, it is also helpful to know these tips in order to keep a good discussion going as well as to handle awkward or difficult questions that may arise.

- Ask open ended questions like "How does that make you feel?" or "What would you do if?"
- Avoid "yes" or "no" questions. They tend to stop discussion rather than promote discussion.
- Ask "Why" questions. These make people really evaluate their feelings and thoughts.  
For example, "Why do you think Jesus said that?"
- Don't be afraid of silence. Let the group think through what has been said or viewed.
- Be ready to share first. As the leader, be prepared to be the first person to share. Your openness will encourage others to be open as well.
- Do your best not to interrupt. Interrupting people makes their future input less likely.
- Practice the art of listening. Really listen to what others are saying, rather than thinking about what you are you are going to say next while they are still talking.
- Thank people for sharing. This will encourage them to share again.
- Pre-view the video or printed materials beforehand. Being familiar with the discussion material beforehand is a key to keeping the group focused during the discussion period and should be a part of leader preparation.
- Be flexible. Sometimes other issues need to be discussed even though they are not scheduled.
- Keep the discussion on topic when needed. Say something like, "Let's refocus for just a minute and talk about this week's topic."
- Treat others with respect. Treat everyone's comments and questions with consistency. Keep in mind that there's no such thing as a "dumb" question or comment.
- Don't think you have to be an expert. Remember, leading a Group does not require you to be a Bible scholar, theologian, counselor or any other kind of expert.
- Be willing to say, "I don't know." No one expects you to know everything so be prepared to admit when you don't have an answer.
- Look it up. When you don't know an answer to a question, tell the group that you will do a little research and attempt to bring an answer next week.
- Ask for help. Don't hesitate to ask another group leader or a staff person for advice or insight.

### **3. What if one individual wants to dominate our Small Group discussion time?**

**Establish R.O.E. (Rules of Engagement).**

When starting a Small Group, or when a new member joins your group, give clear discussion guidelines.

**Here are two that come to mind.**

1. What is said in Small Group stays in Small Group. Whether it is a prayer request or a discussion statement is should remain confidential.
2. In open group discussion, please express your thoughts within 1-2 minutes so all can participate. If you feel a person dominates the discussion time then you, as the leader, must react to the situation positively. Find a place in the conversation as soon as possible and say, “I appreciate your thoughts regarding this matter, I would like to go to another thought concerning...” then engage others in the conversation.

### **4. How Big Should My Small Group Be?**

The average Small Group size is 8-12 people, but every group is different. If you lead a married couples' group and have the space to hold 15 couples, great. If you lead a single women's group in your apartment, you may only be able to hold six people. Your group should be the maximum number of people that you can accommodate and lead effectively.

### **5. How do I ask others to pray out loud in our group?**

Start with yourself. Ease into the public prayer arena carefully. Remember there are two things a person fears the most in coming to Small group: reading in front of others and public praying. *If you do ask someone to pray or read in front of others, please talk to them before your group time to be sure it is all right.* As your group matures, this will not be as much of an issue as it is for a new group.

### **6. Do we have to eat a meal together every week?**

Sharing a meal is not a requirement, however we strongly suggest your group eat together as often as possible. Usually, Small Groups that eat together will stay together for more than one semester. Sometimes sharing a meal is not feasible so we leave it to your Small Group to make the decision. As a minimum we suggest snacks each week. We recommend the host provides the snack the first week as an example to follow the rest of the semester. A sign – up sheet at the first meeting can encourage other group members to commit to bring snacks on a specific week.

## **7. How much time do I need to devote as a SG leader?**

Here are some things that everyone in the group should do, especially the leader:

- Contact others in your group for prayer and encouragement.
- Preview the materials you are presenting if leading the study or discussion.
- The average small group meeting takes about an hour and a half with an additional hour for preparation, phone calls, texts, emails, etc. You are not limited to these amounts. Give as the Lord leads you.
- Keep in mind that you may need to meet one-on-one with some of your group members who are struggling or are in need.

## **8. Where and when can I get Small Group Curriculum?**

We utilize Right Now Media as our main way for groups to use curriculum as well as a recommended curriculum list. It can be found on our website: <http://tbcvenice.com/rightnow-media>

## **9. How can I encourage my Small Group to take next steps at The Bridge Church?**

- Ask each person if they have attended and completed the Growth Path?
- Encourage everyone to volunteer in a ministry.
- Invite someone to serve with you if you are part of another ministry.
- Apprentice two people to lead a Small Group.
- Pray for our pastors, staff and church family in your Small Group.

## **10. What do we do with the kids?**

A common question for many Small Groups is, “What do we do with the kids?” Some people think that children in the Group are a blessing, for others having kids present can be distracting, so it’s important that every Group member clearly understands the arrangements that their group has made for kids.

**There are typically three options for every group that faces this question of Kids:**

- > Childcare is available for on-site small group.
- > Include the kids in your Group allowing them to answer questions, read Scripture, and pray.
- > Arrange for childcare.

The information that follows will help your group jointly determine what steps will be taken to address the question of childcare. Because the safety of our children is so important, here are two important things to consider when arranging childcare for your Small Group:

- > When Children are "on site," communicate with your group about the check-in process.
- > When Children are "off-site" (i.e. another house) consider having them supervised by at least two responsible individuals at least one of whom is an adult.

Keeping these two things in mind, it is also important to plan ahead and make the right childcare choices for your group so that childcare won't become a burden. When deciding what to do for your group childcare, these are five important questions for each group member to weigh in on:

**1. What is the agreed upon childcare approach for our group?**

- ☐ No children are present except for nursing infants
- ☐ Group members take turns caring for children
- ☐ We hire a babysitter for the whole group
- ☐ Other options \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Where should our group childcare be?**

- ☐ In the same house as the Group, but in a separate room
- ☐ At another location (a babysitter's, neighbor's, Group member's house, etc.)
- ☐ Wherever individual parents can arrange it

**3. If applicable, who will pay for childcare?**

- ☐ All of the members who have children
- ☐ The whole group passes around a hat
- ☐ TBC will *reimburse* \$10/hr. per sitter (All sitters will be required to be background checked by TBC)

**4. What groups or individuals are available for childcare?**

- ☐ Students of Group members
- ☐ "Grandparents"—older family or friends who are willing to help
- ☐ A rotation of members from our own group
- ☐ A rotation of members from other groups that meet on a different night of the week, and then we return the favor.
- ☐ Other options \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Who is responsible for lining up the childcare?**

- ☐ The Group leader
- ☐ A designated person in each group (possibly the co-leader)
- ☐ Other options \_\_\_\_\_

## **11. Who should I invite to my Small Group?**

### **1. Family and Friends**

There are people who you are close to who need spiritual community in their lives. Some might be looking for a place to discuss the Bible, or they might take interest in our Small Group studies. Make a list of who you think might be interested and invite them to your Small Group!

### **2. Neighbors**

Inviting your neighbors to a Small Group can be a great way to fill your Small Group. Walk outside of your house, or apartment, and make it a point to know the names of those who live across from you or next to you. Invite them to your Small Group as a way to reach them for Christ!

### **3. Your Church Family**

There are people at the Bridge Church who need to be connected to a Small Group. Here are a few opportunities that you can use at church to invite people to your Small Group:

1. People you sit next to in the service.
2. People you serve alongside with in a ministry.
3. People you meet when you drop off your kids in Bridge Kids.
4. People who stand in line for coffee before and after services.

## **12. How do I help prevent conflict?**

Conflict happens and is a reality that Small Group leaders should be prepared for. By applying the following ideas, you can keep conflict to a minimum and keep minor irritations from becoming major issues.

1. Address issues quickly. If you have an issue with someone, go quickly and talk to them rather than allowing the issue to grow.
2. Use “I” statements when talking about what you are feeling and experiencing. Say, “I get angry when” Rather than saying, “You make me mad.”
3. Listen closely for underlying messages. Remember tone and body language communicates as much if not more than the words.
4. Try to communicate in person. Try to avoid the use of e-mail, text or phones when conflicts occur.



### 13. How do I manage conflict?

Conflict is the natural result of people spending time together. In Small Groups conflict should be addressed rather than avoided. Conflict may occur between group members. Group members will definitely experience conflict with people outside the group. When properly handled, conflict can spur groups to a deeper level of intimacy and community.

Use the following questions to gain perspective when working through conflict in your Group:

- Who is involved?
- What is the issue or concern?
- What are the needs of the individuals involved?
- What are the needs of the whole group?
- How can this be an opportunity for growth in the following areas?
  - Relationship with God
  - Relationship with One Another
  - Relationship with Self
  - Relationship with the World
- What Scripture(s) are relevant to this situation?
- How can I pray for this situation?

### 14. How do I resolve conflict?

While dealing with conflict is difficult to do at times, when handled properly, conflict can build intimacy within your group. Matthew 18 should serve as your guide for conflict resolution within your group.

#### **Step One: One-on-One Meeting to Seek Reconciliation (Matt 18:15)**

If you have conflict with someone, go to him or her one-on-one to seek reconciliation. If someone in your group comes to you to talk about a conflict, they have with someone else in the group, your first question should be “Have you talked to them about it?” If they say no, don’t even listen to the issue before they go and attempt to make it right. If they have talked to them then you can move to step two.

#### **Step Two: Mediator is Included (Matt 18:16)**

Someone should be included if the problem is not resolved in a one-on-one meeting (or several one-on-one meetings). You, the leader, should serve as mediator for unresolved conflict for your group members. If you, the leader, are involved in the conflict, then the mediator should be a qualified staff member from your church.

### **Step Three: Offense is Made Public (Matt 18:17)**

In the rare case that the problem cannot be resolved with outside mediation, the offense should be brought out into public. This can be a discussion among the group as a whole. This should be considered as a last resort to restore the relationship, and this step should NEVER be taken without first gaining consent from a pastor at your church.

## **15. How to develop better listening skills?**

Listening skills are critical for Group Leaders. Make sure to exercise the following skills when you are meeting with your group. As you utilize them, they will become habits, and you'll be an even better leader!

1. **Stop talking.** You can't talk and listen at the same time.
2. **Don't interrupt.** Interrupting people discourages them and makes it less likely that they will contribute to your group's conversations in the future.
3. **Use body language.** Sit or stand up straight and look the other person in the eye.
4. **Actively listen.** Don't think about what you're going to say while the other person is talking.
5. **Listen for themes.** Try to identify and understand the speaker's main idea.
6. **Be alert.** Watch for non-verbal cues that indicate what the speaker may be feeling.
7. **Restate** what was said.

## **16. How can my group serve on mission?**

There is nothing more important than the mission that Christ has called us to be a part of. The only time we have to complete our mission is here on earth. Read the following ideas to help your group off the couch and into action serving others.

### **1. 60 Minute Mission Activity**

Plan with your group to have a 60-minute mission activity during your semester rather than your usual group activity. Make sure to remind them leading up to that event.

### **2. Adopt A Local Cause**

There are plenty of opportunities in your own community to serve. Adopt a family who is in need, or an elderly couple who can't take care of their yard. Volunteer regularly at a school or a homeless shelter.

### **3. Adopt an International Cause**

Find a ministry or church in another country and support it with prayer and finances. You can do local fund raisers to generate funds for your international mission partners. It would be great to try sending at least one person from your group on a trip to serve your international partner as well.

#### **4. Be Creative**

Talk openly to your group about being in Mission together. Pray about the specific Mission that God is calling your group to tackle. Brainstorm together about the ways you can serve the world together and be a light for Christ Jesus.

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### **Recommended Small Group Curriculum:**

Whether your group wants to learn about a specific topic or study the whole Bible, you have a variety of great options!

#### **New Groups**

*Community: Starting Well in Your Small Group* by Andy Stanley

*Starting Point: a conversation about faith* by Andy Stanley

#### **Family/Parenting**

*The Smart Stepfamily* by Ron Deal

*Parenting is Heartwork* by Turansky & Miller

*Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining & Bad Attitudes* by Turansky & Miller

*The Christian Parenting Handbook Family Toolbox* by Turansky & Miller

*Parenting by the Book* by John Rosemond

*Bringing Up Boys* by James Dobson

*Bringing Up Girls* by James Dobson

*Dare to Discipline* by James Dobson

*Strong Willed Child* by James Dobson

*Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp

#### **Financial**

*Financial Peace University* by Dave Ramsey

*Balanced: Gaining & Maintaining Financial Stability* by Andy Stanley (Right Now Media)

*How to Be Rich* by Andy Stanley

*You, Me and Money* by Jimmy Evans (RightNow Media)

*Eliminating Debt* by Crown Financial Ministries (RightNow Media)

## **Marriage**

*You and Me Forever* by Francis Chan (RightNow Media)  
*Creating an Intimate Marriage* by Jim Burns  
*Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman  
*Love and Respect* by Emmerson Eggerich  
*Lifelong Love Affair* by Jimmy Evans (RightNow Media)  
*The Fig Leaf Conspiracy* by Jimmy Evans (RightNow Media)  
*Sex, Love and Communication* by Jimmy Evans (RightNow Media)  
*Return to Intimacy* by Jimmy Evans (RightNow Media)  
*Our Secret Paradise* by Jimmy Evans (RightNow Media)  
*The Indestructible Marriage* by Jimmy Evans (RightNow Media)  
*From Anger to Intimacy* by Gary Smalley & Ted Cunningham  
*Experiencing God's Dream for Your Marriage* by Chip Ingram (Right Now Media)  
*The Art of Marriage by Family Life Ministries* (RightNow Media)  
*The Secret to the Marriage You Want* by Les and Leslie Parrott

## **Men**

*Stepping up: A Call to Courageous Manhood* by Dennis Rainey (RightNow Media)  
*Courageous Living* by Michael Catt, Stephen Kendrick, and Alex Kendrick  
*Wild at Heart* by John Eldredge  
*The True Measure of a Man* by Richard E. Simmons, III  
*A Life of Excellence* by Richard E. Simmons, III  
*33 Series: Authentic Manhood* (RightNow Media)

## **Leadership**

*Leadership Gold* by John Maxwell (RightNow Media)  
*Developing the Leader Within You* by John Maxwell (RightNow Media)

## **Recovery**

*Life's Healing Choices* by Rick Warren  
*Renovate to Make New* by Andy Stanley  
*Recovery Road* by Andy Stanley (Right Now Media)  
*Starting Over* by Andy Stanley (RightNow Media)

## **Spiritual Growth**

*Forgotten God* by Francis Chan (RightNow Media)  
*Everyday Theology. What You Believe Matters.* by Mary Wiley.  
*Enjoying God* by Tim Chester.  
*Crazy Love* by Francis Chan (RightNow Media)  
*Reading the Bible for Life* by George Guthrie  
*Make Room* by Greg Surratt (RightNow Media)  
*Next* by Greg Surratt (RightNow Media)  
*All the Places to Go* by John Ortberg (RightNow Media)  
*Simple* by Andy Stanley (Right Now Media)  
*Breathing Room* by Andy Stanley  
*Starting Over* by Andy Stanley (Right Now Media)  
*Discovering God's Will* by Andy Stanley  
*Basic* by Francis Chan (RightNow Media)  
*Soul Detox* by Craig Groeschel

## **Women**

*More* by Celine Russell  
*Get Out of Your Head* by Jennie Allen  
*Living Life together* by Shauna Niequist (Right Now Media)  
*Faithful, Abundant, True* by Beth Moore, Kay Arthur, and Priscilla Shirer  
*James, Mercy Triumphs* by Beth Moore  
*Power of a Praying Woman* by Stormie Omartian  
*My Single Mom Life* by Angela Thomas  
*Discerning the Voice of God* by Priscilla Shirer  
*Made to Crave* by Lysa Terkeurst

## **Group-Friendly YouVersion Plans**

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