Leading Small Groups □□□

Small group leaders create a welcoming space for shared learning, spiritual growth, and living out God’s Word together. ??????????????????????????????????

- Small Group Leader's Role ???????
- Small Group Covenant ????
- Caring for Small Group Members ????

Small Group Leader's Role □□□□□□

A small group leader guides discussions with humility, encourages growth, and fosters a Christ-centered community.

Small Group Leader Qualifications

1. Must be a born-again, baptized Christian and a member of this church.
2. Must have attended worship services at this church for over a year, be committed to the church, and regularly participate in Sunday services and small group meetings.
3. Must not engage in behaviors that clearly violate biblical principles, such as cohabitation before marriage or extramarital affairs. Must uphold holy marriage and agree with the biblical teaching of one man and one woman in marriage.
4. Must have a solid knowledge of the Bible, a mature understanding of God, and a stable spiritual life.
5. Before officially leading Bible studies, must be approved by pastoral staff and complete the required training courses.
6. If the leader displays poor testimony and repeatedly fails to correct it after counsel, the church reserves the right to suspend their service.

Small Group Leadership Guidelines

1. Serve faithfully, prepare in advance, and be diligent even in small tasks. Arrive early and get all songs or Bible study materials ready beforehand.
2. Leading Bible study is not preaching or explaining everything; it’s creating a space for shared exploration and mutual sharing. Prepare themes and discussion questions, guide and encourage members to participate, and manage the time and flow of discussion.
3. Leading is not to display spiritual superiority but to help brothers and sisters understand God's Word.
4. Always remember the principle: "See no one but Jesus."
5. Bible study is not only to understand Scripture but to help believers live out their faith.
6. Be tolerant of different opinions; if they do not violate biblical principles, avoid arguments. Never win the debate but lose the testimony.
7. Do not force new friends to speak or share. For questions you can't answer immediately, take note and consult a pastor later. Meetings should not exceed two hours.
8. Reserve 5 to 10 minutes at the end of the Bible study for a summary and conclusion.
9. The small group chat group is for communication and care. Monitor the group’s activity; if inappropriate messages attacking the church or unrelated advertisements are posted, address and correct them promptly.
10. Members participating in small group activities must understand and abide by the group covenant.

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Small Group Covenant □□□

This covenant commits small group members to love, trust, serve, and grow together in Christ with integrity and care.

Commitment to Meetings

We value one another and commit to attending fellowship/small group meetings regularly, avoiding absence without cause. We take responsibility seriously, serve each other, and faithfully fulfill our role within the group.

Commitment to Authenticity

We commit to being open with each other, sharing genuine feelings without hiding our hurts, joys, love, hate, hopes, and disappointments.

Commitment to Compassion

We will encourage and forgive one another, letting God's Word guide us to walk in truth.

Commitment to Confidentiality

We commit to keeping confidences, especially concerning personal matters, weaknesses, and private issues. We will protect each other and refrain from gossip.

Commitment to Financial Integrity

No borrowing, selling, or financial guarantees within the group. While we care for each other's needs, especially in times of lack, all financial matters will be handled cautiously. Support should be voluntary and based on genuine need, not involving loans or financial entanglements.

Commitment to Submission

We commit to submitting to one another and to the leadership of the small group leader appointed by the church. We will regularly pray for our church and group coworkers. Group or church WeChat groups are mainly for communication; use them cautiously. For theological questions, members should directly ask the group leader or pastors instead of posting in the group to avoid unnecessary disputes.

Commitment to Care

We commit to caring for each other, encouraging interaction and visits among members, but exercising caution in private interactions between the opposite sexes.

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Caring for Small Group Members □□□□

Caring for small group members means building genuine relationships, offering spiritual and practical support, and growing together in Christ’s love.

Principle of Caring for Members

Loving one another expresses new life, exercises spiritual maturity, and sets an example. Strong relationships bring fruitful building and ministry.

Steps

1. Learn about each member’s background, work, family, and children.
2. Regularly meet for spiritual sharing and prayer with members.
3. Create opportunities for members' families to have meals together.
4. Arrange outings involving multiple member families.

Reflection: 1 John 4:11-12

- What challenges do you face in loving others?
- How can you express love in daily actions?
- How do you understand God's love being made complete in us?

Caring for Small Group Members

Spiritual Care

- Ensure everyone has a chance to speak and be heard during or around meetings.
- Listen carefully for spiritual struggles and pray specifically.
- Pray for each member by name regularly, and serve according to prayer insights.

Practical Life Care

- Pray for members' work challenges.
- Pray for their families, marriages, and children.
- Pray for health concerns and family abroad.

Follow-up on Absentees

- Contact absent members within 1–2 days.
- If absence is due to real difficulties, pray and offer help.
- If excuses are frequent, watch for signs of spiritual drift, pray, spend time with them, and inform pastors if it continues.

Following Up with Newcomers

- Greet newcomers after meetings and invite them to return.

- Follow up the next day via phone or WeChat, asking about their experience and needs.
- If help is needed beyond the small group’s ability, involve a pastor.

Reflection: Galatians 6:2

- How to bear each other's burdens practically?
- How to support and encourage during challenges?
- How to ensure everyone is heard and understood?

Establishing One-on-One Caring Partnerships

- Encourage members to pair with a same-gender partner for mutual support (e.g., for 3 months).
- Partners meet or call weekly to share challenges, Bible reading insights, and pray together.
- Reassess or reshuffle partnerships after each stage.

Reflection: James 1:19-20

- How to practice quick listening and slow speaking?
- How does anger affect your relationships?
- Share an example of practicing patience and understanding.

Caring for Seekers (Newcomers Exploring Faith)

- Actively get to know newcomers.
- Find common ground (children, hometowns, professions, hobbies).
- Build friendship naturally and gently introduce faith without arguing, following the Holy Spirit’s leading.

Reflection: Romans 12:10-13

- How to practice brotherly love and honor daily?
- How do diligence in service and perseverance in prayer show in your life?
- How has faith helped you endure challenges?

Frequent Communication with Group Members

- Keep in touch regularly through meetings, calls, Whatsapp/WeChat, emails.
- Consistent communication builds trust and openness to seek help when needed.
- If a member is unresponsive, another team member or a pastor can reach out.

Reflection: 1 Peter 4:8-10

- What does it mean to truly love one another?
- How does love help cover sins and build unity?
- How can you be a good steward of God's gifts through service?

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