



SMALL GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE

Since our Easter launch, small groups have become a core part of our church culture. They have turned into a place of prayer, good food, sharing, and community for all. Ultimately, they serve as a growth engine and an avenue for new members to learn.

The aim of VC Small Groups is to facilitate the goal of turning each member into a disciple of Jesus Christ and create a space for people to grow in faith, devotion, service, and mission.

Essential Qualities in Small Group Leaders

- A person of spiritual devotion and personal study/learning.
- Has a strong understanding of Apostolic doctrine and is able to teach it clearly to others.
- A Christian example with a heart to shepherd/mentor the young in faith.
- Has an aptitude for hospitality, fun, and can authentically welcome any outsiders.

Points to Keep in Mind

- Being a small group leader demands an intentional effort to study and prepare teaching material on a weekly basis (Wednesdays come around every week).
- If you're doing it by *yourself*, you're doing it *wrong*!
- Find ways to include all, validate everyone's voice, and allow people to contribute.
- Make it your own, be original, and have fun!

Going Forward

- I would like to schedule a monthly conference call with group leaders to share vision, discuss concerns, and support each other.
- Each group will be granted a \$50.00 monthly stipend (on the 1st of each month) to cover the cost of any plates, utensils, cups, coffee, basic refreshments, etc.
- Paul & Alli will float around to various groups, support as needed, and serve as backup in the case that you cannot host one week. If you ever feel overwhelmed, cannot host one night, or simply need an evening to sit back and participate Paul and Alli will step in to help.

- We will reassess/review in December 2019 (this initial term is 4 months).

Childcare

- It will be up to each group to decide what services they provide for childcare. If you chose to designate an extra room in the back for toddlers/kids, we require that someone 18+ is present with children at all times.

Food

- It will be up to each group to decide what they do for food. Do not feel the pressure to organize a full meal each night. Simple refreshments are fine. There is no pressure to cook everything yourself – we recommend getting multiple group members to assist.

Suggested Small Group Agenda

7:00-7:15 / Welcome

7:15-7:30 / Pray over food/refreshments

7:30 / Lesson begins

- Please always refer to the church calendar for any upcoming events.
- Remember to celebrate any victories with your group (baptisms, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.) and reflect on Sunday's service if needed.

7:30-8:15 / Lesson & Prayer

8:15-8:30 / Wrap-Up

Teaching Material

- There will be times when Pastor will designate material that all groups will teach at the same time and other months when the topic of choice is up to you. We can help with suggestions if needed.
- **Upcoming Topics:** SEPT = *Deep Roots*, NOV-DEC = *The Blessing*