

PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS

PURPOSE

Lives can change significantly in the context of authentic relationships. Small group leaders create space for that to happen. The goal is to create a community where group members are encouraged, supported and challenged to grow in their relationship with God.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

- Make introductions often. Save people the embarrassment of forgetting names.
- Look for opportunities to bring people into conversations.
- Keep conversations positive.
- As people build relationships with each other, your role becomes easier.

LISTEN

- Listening is one of the greatest gifts you can give somebody.
- When people feel heard, they feel understood.

ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS AND PARTICIPATION

- Help people engage with the topic. If your group is doing most of the talking, you are doing something right.
- Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know".

USE SCRIPTURE

- No matter what kind of content your group uses, be sure to focus on what God says.
- Let them read - as long as you know they are comfortable.

PRAY

- Make prayer simple. People need to see that anyone can talk to God.
- Make prayer voluntary. Not everyone will be comfortable praying in front of others.
- Write it down. This will help you be able to celebrate answered prayers.

FIVE QUESTIONS FOR EVERY SMALL GROUP LEADER

Where will your group meet?

- A consistent location is helpful, but you can rotate among different group members.
- An ideal location is quiet and comfortable, where there are few interruptions.

When will your group meet?

- Even if the location rotates, keep the day/time consistent.
- Creating a semester schedule will help maintain good attendance.

Who will bring food?

- Encourage different people to share this role each week.
- Creating a plan for this will make it easier for everyone.

What is your plan for childcare?

- Does your group want to make plans for babysitting to be offered where the group meets?
- Don't let this be an obstacle, the church may be able to help. Talk to your coach.

What is your topic?

- You can gather input from your group, but ultimately you have to make a decision on what the group will discuss.
- We encourage you to consider using content from www.rightnowmedia.org (If you need a login to access the content, let us know).

TRAINING FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS

Complete the following training videos on Right Now Media.

- Starting A Small Group.
- Who Before How.
- Keeping It Simple.
- Leaders Pray.