

# Small Group Leadership

## *Purpose of Small Groups*

- Gives every person an opportunity to share more frequently, openly and intimately than they can in a larger group setting.
- Gives people the opportunity to discuss how study applies to their lives.
- Gives people the opportunity to pray together.
- Cultivates meaningful friendships and fellowship with other people.
- Strengthens discipleship and accountability.

## *Role of a Small Group Leader*

- To rely on the Holy Spirit for His power, wisdom and discernment.
- To encourage members to share insights & discoveries as it relates to the study.
- To guide discussion in a meaningful manner: asking appropriate questions, keeping the discussion on track and helping others to see personal application.
- To love and care for the people in group (eg. contacting/praying during week).
- To pray with his/her group of people.
- To be a godly role model in everything.

# Qualities of Small Group Leaders

## *A Heart for God*

The most important, foundational quality we can have is a *passion for God!* We can cultivate a vibrant, growing friendship with God by daily abiding in Christ and obeying His Word. A small group leader is, first and foremost, *God-centered*.

**Psalm 42:1,2** “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?”

**Matthew 6:33** “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

### **Practical Application:**

- Spend time daily with the Lord, in His Word and prayer.
- Take regular personal retreats with the Lord, spending extended time in prayer, worship and His Word.
- Listen to the Holy Spirit during the day and keep in step with Him!

## *A Godly Role Model*

People need *godly* role models they can imitate, particularly in the areas of marriage and parenting. As small group leaders, God calls us to be reliable, godly role models whom others can imitate! We're not perfect, but we should be

able to say, as Paul did in I Cor. 11:1, *“Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.”*

**I Cor. 4:16** *“Therefore I urge you to imitate me (Paul).”*

**I Tim. 4:12** *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.”*

### **Practical Application:**

- Live a life of integrity, privately and publicly.
- Build others up in your conversations, speaking well of others.
- Honor your spouse in the way you treat and speak of him/her. Spend quality time with your family.

### **An Under-Shepherd’s Heart:**

An under-shepherd is one who serves our Chief Shepherd by *loving and caring for others*. God wants us to develop an under-shepherd’s heart where we regularly initiate love and care for others and pray with them. A small group leader is *others-centered*.

**I Peter 5:2,3** *“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, serving a overseers—not because you must but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.”*

**I Thess. 3:12** *“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.”*

### **Practical Application:**

- Greet unfamiliar people at church and get to know them!
- Pray with people before/after church and after the study.
- Communicate with members in your group weekly.
- Look for ways to encourage and build up the members of your group.

### **A Servant’s Heart:**

A servant is someone who expresses their love for their Master (Christ) by serving others in practical ways. Servant and undershepherd attitudes go hand in hand. God desires that we grow as His servants, actively looking for ways we can express our love through service. Small group leaders serve by facilitating discussions, calling their members, etc. Small group leaders also model servanthood for others at church by serving in some capacity.

**Phil. 2:3-7** *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who...made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant...”*

**Mark 10:45** *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

### **Practical Application:**

- Serve in some area at church.
- Listen attentively to others! Avoid the temptation to talk too much.
- If you see a need, step in and help.

# Skills to Develop

*“Small group leaders are not born. They are developed.”*

## **1. Continue to cultivate a vibrant relationship with the Lord!**

- Spend time with the Lord daily through His Word and prayer. Listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and obey Him.

## **2. Prepare for meeting.**

- Do your homework well in advance and prepare written discussion questions.
- Pray for your group during the week.
- Call people before study.
- Arrive for Prayer 15 minutes prior to study.

## **3. Be a Good Listener!**

- It's tempting to want to share all your insights, especially since you have studied and prepared so well! Encourage the people to share and love them by listening!

## **4. Lead Discussion Well.**

- Use your time well. Don't let one or two people dominate the discussion.
- Encourage quiet ones by asking, *“Mark, would you like to share...?”*
- Be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is doing in your group.
- If your discussion goes “off track”, you can steer it back by saying something like,  
*“Thank you for sharing. Because our time is limited, let's move on to...”*  
**Or,**  
*“We're getting topic. I'd be happy to talk/pray w/ you after the group...”*

## **5. End on Time.**

- It's important to end on time. People appreciate this!

## **6. Shepherd and Serve, even outside of small groups.**

- Pray for the members in your group.
- Communicate with members weekly. Pray with them.
- Reach out to people at church and at fellowship. It's tempting to gravitate towards comfortable friends, but an undershepherd always reaches out!
- Be a godly example in attitude & speech. People learn from our modeling.

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