

SMALL GROUP LEADER FAQs

WHO CAN LEAD A SMALL GROUP?

Almost anyone! God has an incredible way of using a variety of people to accomplish His goals. You do not have to be a great teacher or dynamic leader or a Bible scholar to lead a small group. It's okay to not have all the answers. What you do need is a desire to learn, grow, disciple and change lives.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A LEADER?

- Maintain a personal, growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Lead the group by facilitating the group meeting, promoting participation and connection among group members and assessing ongoing group health.
- Commit to engage in leadership development opportunities provided.
- Be responsive and teachable.
- Pray for the members of your group.
- Identify and develop future small group leaders from within your group (adult small groups).

HOW WILL I BE TRAINED AND EQUIPPED AS A GROUP LEADER?

All our ministries offer annual Leader Training in the late summer/early fall as well as monthly Leader Gatherings throughout the year. Leaders are strongly encouraged to attend all training opportunities provided.

We also do our best to make sure that leaders have everything they need in order to lead their group well. LPKids volunteers receive a handbook when they commit to serve and all

their curriculum and materials are provided and prepped for them. LPStudents group leaders receive ongoing mentoring from LPStudents staff. Our adult small group leaders are provided with group materials and discussion questions to facilitate their group meetings.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL KIDS SMALL GROUP TIME LOOK LIKE?

Kids begin their time each service with their small group, meaning LPKids small group leaders serve as the first connection that kids make when they walk into the room. Group leaders create a safe community to help kids be known and to know other people. After their large group time, kids return to their small groups for application and additional discussion before they return to their parents.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL STUDENT SMALL GROUP MEETING LOOK LIKE?

Middle school students meet in their small groups during their Sunday mornings service. Middle school service typically begins with a time of socializing among students and leaders, followed by a large group lesson and then the students break into small groups divided by gender and grade. During this small group time, group leaders facilitate discussion to assist in further understanding the lesson and applying it to day-to-day lives.

High school small groups are composed of 8-12 students who meet once a week in homes. These groups are divided by grade and gender and their meetings typically last about 2 hours. This small group time usually involves a time to socialize, a time to study, and a time for prayer. Often, students and small group leaders bring snacks and drinks to share.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL ADULT SMALL GROUP MEETING LOOK LIKE?

Adult small groups are usually 10-12 people who gather weekly in homes. This meeting typically lasts about 2 hours. There is usually a time to socialize, a time for study, and a time for prayer. Small groups are encouraged to participate in service projects and social gatherings together throughout the year.

WHAT ABOUT SPECIALITY GROUPS? HOW DO I GET INVOLVED AS A LEADER?

Each specialty group (including Celebrate Recovery, DivorceCare, Financial Peace University, Starting Point, GriefShare, MOPS and more!) is a little bit different, so the best way to be a leader is to get involved as a member first. You can learn more about all our groups at lpgroups.us.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I ENCOUNTER ISSUES OR SITUATIONS THAT ARE MORE THAN I CAN HANDLE ON MY OWN?

If any problems arise in your group, we are here to help! The monthly Leader Gatherings provide support and resources. In addition, you can contact your ministry leader at any time for additional guidance.