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# *I. Mission & Strategy*

## **A. OUR MISSION**

Our mission is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ . . .

## **B. THREE RELATIONSHIPS**

. . . by creating environments where people are encouraged and equipped to pursue intimacy with God,

community with insiders,

and influence with outsiders.

## C. THREE ENVIRONMENTS

FOYER

OPEN

LIVING ROOM

TARGETED

KITCHEN

CLOSED

## D. SIMPLE PURPOSE

1. They are not:

- Social clubs.
- Meditation groups.
- Support groups.
- Teaching environments.

2. They do . . .

provide a predictable small group environment where participants experience authentic community and spiritual growth.

### **AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY**

Accountability

Belonging

Care

### **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

Intimacy with God

Community with Insiders

Influence with Outsiders

## *II. Roles & Responsibilities*



### **A. THE GROUP DIRECTOR**

- Serves the leader.
- Casts vision.
- Provides guidance.

## B. THE GROUP LEADER

- Models servant-leadership.
- Navigates the group.
- Monitors group health.

## C. LEADER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- Three one-on-ones
- Two S2's
- One event

# *III. Predictable Environment*

## **A. DEFINING SUCCESS**

- When group leaders are growing in the three vital relationships.
- When group members are growing in the three vital relationships.

## **B. MEETING PLAN**

- Connection
- Discussion
- Prayer

Remember: Start light and end light.



## C. FIRST THREE MONTHS

- Build capital.
- Cast vision.
- Clarify expectations.
- Start with “relational” curriculum.

## D. FOLLOWING MONTHS

- Review covenant.
- Share hosting and facilitation.
- Select curriculum around the three vital relationships.
- Participate in an Intersect project.
- Identify apprentice(s).
- Contact director as needed.

# THE 6 COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER ESSENTIALS

1. THINK *Life* change  
*WHY WE DO GROUPS*

2. Cultivate RELATIONSHIPS  
*HOW YOU BUILD COMMUNITY*

3. PROMOTE participation  
*HOW YOU LEAD THE GROUP*

4. REPLACE yourself  
*HOW YOU APPRENTICE*

5. Provide CARE  
*HOW YOU HANDLE A CRISIS*

6. MULTIPLY influence  
*HOW YOU MAXIMIZE INFLUENCE*



## *IV. Ten Ways to Kill a Group*

1. Don't meet regularly.
2. Have too few members.
3. Have too many members.
4. Don't use a covenant.
5. Don't deal with a problem member.
6. Allow prayer request time to become storytelling time.
7. Don't follow a curriculum.
8. Allow members to bring guests without clearing it with other members.
9. Ignore the personal needs of group members.
10. Never multiply to form a new group.

## *V. Additional Resources*

[www.groupcurriculum.org](http://www.groupcurriculum.org)

[www.groupleaders.org](http://www.groupleaders.org)

[www.theintersectproject.org](http://www.theintersectproject.org)

[www.insidegrouplife.org](http://www.insidegrouplife.org)



*Appendix*

# Why Community Groups?

## 1. Community groups support our *Invest and Invite* evangelism strategy.

- ❖ They allow attendees the flexibility of bringing people to our Sunday morning “foyer” environment.
- ❖ Some people are more open to visit a home than a church.

## 2. Community groups are conducive to the development of authentic community.

- ❖ They are predictable environments.
- ❖ They are the best environments for the development of accountability, a sense of belonging and care (the A,B,Cs).
- ❖ A home environment is more inviting and warm.
- ❖ Their size ensures that no one slips through the cracks.
- ❖ There are no time constraints, allowing meetings to run long without interfering with other programming.

## 3. Community Groups enable more people to serve on Sunday mornings.

- ❖ Attendees aren't forced to make a choice between serving on Sunday mornings or participating in a class.
- ❖ It allows leadership to participate in a small group environment without forcing them to give up their Sunday morning responsibilities.

#### **4. Community groups decentralize leadership.**

- ❖ They spread out the leadership responsibilities to group leaders.
- ❖ They allow for more leadership opportunities.
- ❖ They utilize a broader range of spiritual gifts.

#### **5. Community groups offer maximum flexibility.**

- ❖ Groups can schedule their meetings in conjunction with their family schedules.
- ❖ Groups can meet anywhere and are not tied down to one location.
- ❖ Individuals and couples have multiple groups from which to choose.

#### **6. Community Groups allow us to be good stewards of our resources and remove the primary limits to growth.**

- ❖ Fewer church owned and maintained facilities are required, which in turn frees up more money for other areas.
- ❖ We will never run out of room with our groups strategy.
- ❖ We will never run out of parking with our groups strategy.

#### **7. Community Groups are the optimal environment for sustained life change.**

- ❖ They provide connection with other believers, which is critical to our spiritual development.
- ❖ Because of their size, community groups are the ideal place for mutual encouragement and growth.



# Sample Icebreakers

Icebreakers are an essential tool for small groups. Begin with light, informational questions and then move to deeper, more personal level as the group progresses together. If used well, icebreakers can move the group to experience greater community!

## LEVEL 1 | INFORMATION: *What you know.*

- What is your favorite movie? Why?
- What is your favorite city? Why?
- What day of your life would you most like to relive? Why?
- What does your name mean? Why were you named that?
- If your house were on fire, what three items (not people) would you try to save?
- What was the best gift you ever received as a child?
- If you suddenly lost your eyesight, what would be the thing you missed seeing the most?
- What was your first job? What do you remember most about it?
- Tell the group a brief a story from your wedding day.
- If you could go to college (again), what would you study?
- If you were given a year sabbatical from work, what would you do?
- What is one of the greatest adventures you have ever been on?

## LEVEL 2 | OPINIONS: *What you think.*

- Who is one of your heroes? Why?
- Who is your number one advisor in life? Why?
- My favorite way to spend time is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Just for the fun/thrill of it, before I die, I'd like to \_\_\_\_\_.





- I was (or would have been) voted “Most likely to” \_\_\_\_\_ in high school.
- I wish that before I got married someone would have told me \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you were going to leave the world one piece of advice before you died, what would it be?
- Who is one of the most interesting people you or your family ever entertained?
- Who is the best boss you ever had? What made him or her so good?
- People might be surprised to find out that I \_\_\_\_\_.
- Describe a grade school teacher that made a big impression on you (for good or ill).
- Each person in the group answer for the person to your right: “ \_\_\_\_\_, I am so glad God made you because \_\_\_\_\_.”

**LEVEL 3 | FEELING: *Who you are.***

- What is your biggest fear about death?
- What do you miss most about childhood?
- I am most like my mom/dad in that I \_\_\_\_\_.
- One of my biggest pet peeves is \_\_\_\_\_.
- When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Were there any surprises?
- For what do you want to be remembered?
- An emotion I often feel but don’t usually express is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Where do you go or what do you do when life gets too heavy for you? Why?
- In what area of your life would you like to have greater peace? Why?
- What is one of your biggest fears about the future?







