



# small groups

LEADER'S GUIDE

# Why Small Groups

## SMALL GROUPS PURPOSE

The mission of the church is to make disciples and we believe God takes every one of us through the same process in becoming a disciple of Jesus. At Church on the Move, we describe this process in four words:

**Know. Grow. Discover. Go.**

The primary goal of Small Groups at Church on the Move is to help people **GROW**. Once we **KNOW** God, we begin a journey of being free from our past so we can become more like Jesus and we believe that happens best in relationships with other believers.

Every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. Small Groups are a place where, through relationships, we **GROW** to reach the potential God has placed inside us.

We feel certain that this can happen in anyone's life because we share this core conviction:

***When we GROW together in Small Groups,  
we GROW closer to the real Jesus.***

## What Small Groups Look Like

At Church on the Move, we want Small Groups to gather around the things they enjoy and are important to them. Essentially, the things you are already doing in your life are the things that can make up your Small Group!

From sports groups to lunch groups, mom groups to student groups, Bible study groups to creative arts groups, our groups are as varied as we are.

### SMALL GROUP HUBS

All COTM Small Groups fall within four Hubs:

Women's  
Men's

Couples  
Students

### SMALL GROUP COACHES

Small Group Leaders are paired with coaches who serve alongside you to invest in your success. Coaches are KEY to your effectiveness as a leader because their role is to equip, support, resource, encourage, and pray for you throughout the semester. You are NEVER alone!

Your coach is passionate about the health and progress of your group. Communicate with your coach regularly to share questions, concerns, prayer requests, and celebrations from your group.

## EXPECTATIONS

- Lead your Small Group by facilitating group meetings, monitoring group health, and promoting participation among group members.
- Commit to engaging in communication with your coach throughout each semester.
- Commit to participating in leadership development opportunities provided by the church.
- Identify and recruit future leaders, and embrace their development as a measure of success.
- Rally the group around any member needing care. Use wisdom and be sensitive.

## LEADER QUALIFICATIONS

- Be a born again follower of Christ.
- Regularly attend services at COTM.
- Tithe regularly at COTM.
- Complete the Go Team approval process.
- Be in complete doctrinal agreement (no exceptions) with COTM.
- Recognize the Bible as the final authority for our lives.
- Be in full agreement with the COTM Small Groups purpose.
- Have the time, emotional capacity, and moral discernment to lead a group.
- Have the spiritual maturity to create and maintain a safe and confidential environment for the group members.
- Have a safe and stable home life.

## 5 Essentials of Healthy Small Groups

We believe a healthy Small Group has five essential ingredients. No matter what type of Small Group (Bible study, weekend services, interest based, etc.) these five ingredients must be present:

**Vulnerability**  
**Encouragement**  
**Scripture**  
**Prayer**  
**Accountability**

### **VULNERABILITY**

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

**GALATIANS 6:1-3**

*"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed."*

**JAMES 5:16**

*"We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also."*

**2 CORINTHIANS 6:11-13**

## Setting the Right Environment for Your Group

Growth requires vulnerability. As leaders, it is our responsibility to create environments that encourage people to be open and real. Two key principles for creating this kind of environment:

### 1. The vulnerability and openness of the leader.

If you aren't willing to be open and real about who you really are and where you need growth others won't be either.

### 2. An atmosphere of trust and safety.

None of us are willing to be vulnerable if the relationship doesn't feel safe. Leaders must cultivate acceptance, trust, and confidentiality in order to encourage vulnerability.

People are more likely to open up when they feel comfortable. As leaders we want to promote an environment of hospitality.

- **Provide a clean and comfortable meeting space.**
- **Seek to minimize distractions.**
- **Offer refreshments.**
- **Engage everyone in a non-threatening way.**
  - Some personalities will take longer than others to engage. Be inclusive, but patient.

## ENCOURAGEMENT

*“So let’s do it—full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out. Let’s keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his Word. Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big day approaching.”* HEBREWS 10:22-25

*“So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you’ll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you’re already doing this; just keep on doing it.”* I THESSALONIANS 5:11

Everyone needs encouragement. Jesus warned us that this life would be difficult (John 16:33). And we know it is. Small Groups should be one place where we leave encouraged, refreshed, and renewed to engage our lives with confidence and peace.

### Ways to Encourage Your Group

- Engage every member in a friendly and genuine way. Ask them about their week. Celebrate the high points and support them in the low ones.
- Intentionally celebrate spiritual growth in the group. Make the small things **big things** (Baptism, Salvation, Bible reading, etc.).
- Share in the responsibilities of the group. Create volunteer positions (Snack Organizer, Group Communicator, Lead Icebreaker, etc.).
- Identify your next leader or leaders. Model, develop, and mentor them. Have them take over some responsibilities or lead various aspects of the Small Group as you watch, assist, correct, and encourage.

## SCRIPTURE

*"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."* **ROMANS 10:17**

*"There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us."* **II TIMOTHY 3:16**

No matter the type of Small Group you choose to lead, sharing Scripture will always be an essential ingredient. Our purpose for Small Groups at Church on the Move is to help people **GROW** in their relationship with Christ. Scripture is the foundational ingredient for spiritual growth.

### Infusing Scripture into Your Group

- Consider sharing a passage of scripture each week that is meaningful to you. This works best when it coincides with the topic of the week, but can also be used to open or close your meeting time.
- When we speak into people's lives or offer advice in our group we always want it founded in scripture. Seek to point group members to the Bible for answers and help. Your coach can help with this, if needed.
- Try a Bible study curriculum for your group. Be sure to choose something you feel comfortable and confident teaching or facilitating.



## PRAYER

*"Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with."*

**JAMES 5:13-18**

*"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men."*

**1 TIMOTHY 2:1A**

*"Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out."* **EPHESIANS 6:18**

Set aside time during every group meeting to pray together. This can be a time at the beginning of each group to set the tone or at end of each meeting when you ask group members for prayer requests. Prayer invites the presence of God into our groups and God's presence is the **ONLY** thing that can radically transform our lives and relationships.

### How to Pray For Your Group

- Pray for any requests group members share.
- Ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit in your group.
- Pray that God will open people's hearts to hear His truth.
- Pray for authentic community to develop.
- Pray for wisdom and strength to lead your group well.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

*"It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps, but if there's no one to help, tough! Two in a bed warm each other. Alone, you shiver all night. By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped."* **ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12**

*"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."* **PROVERBS 27:17**

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds..."* **HEBREWS 10:24**

Growing in our faith always requires taking steps and making decisions. Some of which aren't easy. Small Groups offer us a support system and a loving nudge to stay the course even when it's hard. Accountability is an act of love if we truly want to see people's lives transformed by the power of Jesus.

### How to Cultivate Accountability in Your Group

- When appropriate, encourage group members to make specific commitments about their next steps.
- Lovingly ask group members to share the progress they are making on their next step commitments.
- If progress is slow or no action has been taken, seek to help group members remove obstacles and take action.
- Remember your primary goal is not to judge other's progress, but to help them take steps closer to Jesus.

# **Creating Healthy Group Dynamics**

## **Set Clear Expectations**

A key to helping people feel comfortable in your group is to let them know what to expect. Take time to share how the group will flow from week to week. This can include things like explaining the times you will begin and end the group, how discussion or group activities will happen, and how the group will rally as a family to care for and support one another.

## **Follow the 70/30 Rule**

Give the members of your group room to speak up instead of doing all the talking yourself. About 70% of talking should come from members and 30% from the leader.

## **Keep the Discussion Positive**

If conversation takes a negative or destructive turn, guide it back to a healthy place. If someone needs to talk about a sensitive or complex issue, you can follow up with them after the group or call your coach to help you respond well.

## **Keep the Conversation Relevant to Everyone**

Remember, everyone in your group will be at different places in their spiritual journey. Be thoughtful when you talk about spiritual concepts or church terms that might be unfamiliar to new Christians or new church-goers.

## **Respect Boundaries**

Men should minister to men and women should minister to women. A couple may minister to a single person. We want to maintain integrity and purity in our Small Groups. These boundaries will help protect the leaders and group members from entering into an uncomfortable or inappropriate situation.

## FACILITATING WITH EXCELLENCE

- Start and end on time.
- Be a facilitator, not a lecturer— your goal is to encourage personal interaction and self-discovery. Be a good listener.
- Focus on what scripture says, not your own ideas and opinions.
- Seek to understand before being understood. Never put down a person's comments or contributions.
- Don't allow one or two people to dominate the discussion.
- Don't force anyone to talk, but encourage involvement by calling on reluctant participants by name.
- Keep the discussion on track. If new issues are raised, suggest that you return to them after the current discussion is completed.
- Ask good follow-up questions to take the conversation further.
- Remember, the goal is to build relationships, not complete the curriculum.
- Be sure to include **fun** into your semester. Set aside some time to just do something fun as a group.

## DEADLY DESTRUCTORS

- Inconsistent gatherings
- Not enough members (open chairs) or too many members
- Not addressing a problem member
- Not communicating with group members
- Not caring for group members
- Omitting one or more of the 5 Essentials (VESPA)
- Small Groups are not a place for:
  - Business, multi-level marketing
  - Offerings
  - Unapproved materials or speakers
  - Controversial topics
  - Alcohol or tobacco use of any kind

# Frequently Asked Questions

## CHILDCARE

### What are the childcare standards?

We recommend collaborating with the others in your group to find a childcare provider that you can all utilize together. If a group decides to provide group childcare, they must provide a clean and safe environment for children. All childcare arrangements that are made are of no affiliation or responsibility of Willie George Ministries or Church on the Move, and are made upon your own recourse. WGM and its affiliated organizations are not responsible for any actions taken through external group environments.

### How do childcare reimbursements work?

We reimburse a predetermined rate per child, per meeting. Reimbursement for one child is \$15, for two children is \$16, for three children is \$17, and for four children or more is \$18 - this is per meeting, not per hour. Each person requesting a reimbursement must register and submit a reimbursement form each month. Registration and the monthly form can be found at **[groups.churchonthemove.com](https://groups.churchonthemove.com)**.

## SEMESTERS

### Why are there semesters?

This allows group leaders and participants to have built-in breaks throughout the year. We believe there is value in cyclical beginnings and endings to Small Group experiences.

### What if I miss the deadline to register my group for this semester?

If you do not register your group before the deadline, we ask that you wait until the next semester to try again. In the meantime, you can join a group for this semester to get a feel for COTM Small Groups.

### How long is the commitment for leading a Small Group?

Leading a Small Group is a six to twelve week commitment. After each semester ends, it's up to you and your group to decide whether you will continue meeting at the start of the next semester.

### Can my group keep meeting after the semester ends?

We recommend that groups meet on a recreational or outreach basis between semesters. This is a great time to plan a fun group activity or an outreach event where you all serve together. It's healthy to take a break from the traditional Small Group setting, so for that reason we do not provide curriculum between semesters. Just because you take a break from regular meetings, doesn't mean you have to cut off relationship with your group members, however. Be sure to keep up with them and be available for them when you can.

### **Why aren't mixed-gender single's groups an option?**

We believe in creating an environment for Small Groups that allows everyone in the group to feel comfortable and open to talk about the different issues that can come up during spiritual conversations. This is best achieved with people of the same gender.

### **Do we have to meet at a house?**

We believe that the best atmosphere for a Small Group is in a home, however, we understand that sometimes that is not an option. Other options for meeting places could include coffee shops, cafés, outdoor locations, etc.

### **Do I have to provide snacks at every meeting?**

Having snacks and drinks available during a Small Group meeting can change the whole mood of the group and help put people at ease. If you don't want to provide snacks and drinks for every meeting, delegate some of the responsibility to other people in the group and let people take turns.

## CURRICULUM

### Can I use the curriculum of my choice?

COTM has an extensive list of approved curriculum options. These can be found on the Leader Portal section of [groups.churchonthemove.com](https://groups.churchonthemove.com).

COTM also has a wide range of approved Small Groups video resources that can be accessed through [RightNowMedia.com](https://RightNowMedia.com).

However, if you have a specific curriculum that you want to use that is not approved, it must be submitted for approval at least 30 days before you register your group for the upcoming semester. Contact your coach with any questions about curriculum approval.

### What should I do if someone asks a question I can't answer?

It's okay to not have all the answers. Thankfully, we can find guidance through prayer, God's Word, and the Holy Spirit. Encourage them to spend time reading the Bible and praying. Also, let them know that you will do your best to get some information and get back with them at your next Small Group meeting. Do some personal research and call your coach to get advice.



### **What should I do if someone in my group shares something with me (or the group) that requires attention beyond what I (or we) can provide?**

If you encounter a difficult situation within your Small Group, please know that you are not alone. If a member is going through a crisis, you can rally the group around them to provide prayer, encouragement, and support. Use wisdom and be sensitive to the situation. If you are unsure of what to do, don't hesitate to ask your coach.

### **How can I share stories of life change from the Small Group semester?**

We love hearing about lives that are changed through Small Groups. You can share your stories with your coach.

You can also share your own personal stories through social media and tag **#cotmsmallgroups**

## **OTHER QUESTIONS**

Connect regularly with your coach as other questions arise throughout the semester.

# Your First Group Meeting

## NOTES FOR LEADING

Your first meeting as a Small Group is more of a social gathering. You may be eager to jump into the study, but beginning the process of cultivating relationships is essential to the group experience. The depth of your relationships will drive the quality of your discussions. Before the meeting, send your group members an email, text, or call confirming the date and time of the meeting and providing them with directions to your meeting place. Let them know the start and end time to your group meeting. Letting them know this information helps to create a predictable environment.

This first meeting is also the best time to set some expectations for your group. Talk about **VESPA**.

Have a conversation about caring for your group. The primary way care happens at Church on the Move is through Small Groups.

Rally everyone around the idea that for the next several weeks this is our family. When one of the group is going through a circumstance that requires care (hospital visits, prayer, or some other type of support), the group rallies around them and takes care of them.

**Vulnerability**  
**Encouragement**  
**Scripture**  
**Prayer**  
**Accountability**

## ICE BREAKERS

On the night of the meeting, your job is to create an environment in which people can begin to connect. If your group members have already met and are comfortable with one another, you may not have to do much more than provide coffee and snacks. If your group is meeting for the first time, you may want to use some icebreakers to help people ease into the conversation.

Using icebreakers is an essential Small Group skill. Begin with light and informational questions and then move to deeper and more personal levels as the group progresses together. Since this is your first group meeting, you probably want to stick mostly with Level 1 questions, maybe adding in a few Level 2 questions near the end of the evening.

**Level 1: Information (What you know)**

**Level 2: Opinion (What you think)**

**Level 3: Feelings (Who you are)**

## ICE BREAKERS (CONT.)

### 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 that you would miss seeing the most?
- What was your first job? What do you remember most about it?
- Tell the group a brief story from your wedding day.
- If you could go to college (again), what would you study?
- You have been given a one-year sabbatical from work. What will you do?
- What has been one of the greatest adventures you have ever been on?

## Level 2: Opinion (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 before I got married someone had told me \_\_\_\_\_.
- If you could leave the world one piece of advice before you died, what would you say?
- Who was one of the most interesting people you or your family ever entertained?
- Who was 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 bad).
- Each person in the group answer for the person on your right: "\_\_\_\_\_, I am so glad God made you because \_\_\_\_\_."

## ICE BREAKERS (CONT.)

### Level 3: Feelings (Who you are)

- What is your greatest fear?
- What do you miss most about childhood?
- I am most like my mom/dad when I \_\_\_\_\_.
- One of my biggest pet peeves is \_\_\_\_\_.
- When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
- 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?
- How do you feel about your future? Why do you feel that way?
- In general, I worry too much about \_\_\_\_\_.



Before you end the meeting, ask your group members this question: What do you hope to get out of this group experience? Let them know what you hope to get out of the experience of leading them.

## Helpful Scripture References

At Church on the Move we believe ministering through the Word of God is the most powerful way to care for people. As you pray over a Small Group member, try inserting that member's name in the scripture to make it more personalized.

As a leader, we encourage you to find and memorize at least three scriptures, which will equip you when walking someone through a tough situation as well as give you strength as a leader throughout the semester.

Here is a list of powerful scriptures that you can apply to any situation:

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*"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

**MARK 12:30-31**

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

**PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."*

**PROVERBS 3:5-6**



*"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."*

**ISAIAH 55:8-9**

*"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him."*

**1 JOHN 5:14-15**

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."*

**EPHESIANS 6:10-28**

*"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."*

**ROMANS 8:28**

*"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord.*

**ISAIAH 54:17**

*"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago. "*

**EPHESIANS 2:10**

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

**JEREMIAH 29:11**

*"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father."*

**MATTHEW 5:14-16**

*"No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

**ROMANS 8:39**

*"Stay away from the love of money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never, never fail you nor forsake you." That is why we can say without any doubt or fear, "The Lord is my Helper, and I am not afraid of anything that mere man can do to me."*

**HEBREWS 13:5-6**

*"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."*

**ISAIAH 41:10**

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

**PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7**

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."*

**JAMES 1:2-4**

*"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."*

**1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7**

*"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."*

**ROMANS 10:17**

*"One day the apostles said to the Lord, "We need more faith; tell us how to get it." "If your faith were only the size of a mustard seed," Jesus answered, "it would be large enough to uproot that mulberry tree over there and send it hurtling into the sea! Your command would bring immediate results!"*

**LUKE 17:5-6**

*"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."*

**HEBREWS 11:1**

*"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."*

**JAMES 1:5**

*"Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety."*

**PROVERBS 11:14**

*"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death."*

**ROMANS 8:1-2**

*"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."*

**ISAIAH 1:18**

*"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him."*

**1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-14**


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## Role of a Small Group Leader

Being a Small Group Leader isn't complicated. We don't ask you to be a bible scholar, a Christian counselor, or a perfect host. We believe the pathway to effectiveness as a Small Group Leader is discovered through one very simple, biblical concept: ***Pursue God with all of YOUR heart and then invite others to join you.***

### GREAT LEADERS ARE GREAT FOLLOWERS FIRST

Jesus' very first invitation to the people who would re-shape the world with His gospel was, "Follow me." Life-change must first be evident in our lives before we can help others discover the life-changing power of Jesus. We cannot lead people where we are not going. Great Small Group Leaders are fully committed to following Jesus first.

### 3 KEY COMMITMENTS

#### 1. Pray for each group member daily.

God changes people's hearts, heals their past, sets them free. Not us. So ask Him to do what ONLY He can do.

#### 2. Build a real relationship with each group member.

God uses people to **GROW** people. Invest the time to truly know your group. This is how Jesus' love is felt and known.

#### 3. Help each group member take their Next Step.

God deeply desires to **GROW** us. And He almost always does it through simple steps. Small Group Leaders help their members identify and take their Next Step with Jesus.

## SEMESTERS (CONT.)

### What if my group wants to keep meeting, but I want to step out of leading the group?

Whether you continue leading your group or not, you should always have someone in your group that you are raising up to be a future leader. You can either hand your leadership role to the person you have raised up, or if no one steps up to lead the group, your group members can sign up for different groups at the beginning of the next semester.

## GROUP SPECIFICS

### What types of groups are there?

The main categories for groups are Couples, Women's, Men's, and Students. The categories beneath those are broken down by location, meeting day and time, curriculum, and interest based (i.e. running, sewing, cycling).

### What if no one signs up for my group?

The Small Group Finder should be used as a secondary tool for adding people to your group. Inviting people you know and people that you meet is the number one way to add people to your group. Don't wait for them to come to you, go to them!

### Can dating couples attend a couples group?

Couples groups are specifically for married couples only. We offer excellent pre-marital Small Groups for engaged couples. We ask that dating couples attend separate women's and men's groups.