

# Small Group Leader's Guide

# Small Groups

## Why Small Groups?

Jesus modelled disciple making through a small group of 12. It was through this environment his disciples deepened their relationship with Christ and matured to be like their teacher, joining with him to make new disciples. OSAC Groups strategically support our vision and objectives “to be like Christ and make him known” by joining with Jesus to create small intentional environments for disciples to mature and multiply.

## Key Characteristics

- A small spiritual family, made up of individuals at different stages of maturity in Christ with different maturity needs.
- Led by individuals who seek to join with Jesus in serving their group as spiritual parents.
- Meet regularly over an intentional season to foster a healthy relational environment (transparent, safe, authentic, challenging, fun, encouraging) for Christlike growth (head, heart, hands).
- Aligned with OSAC’s vision and objectives
- Rooted in relationship with Jesus, His Word and His Spirit

## What is the role of the Small Group Leader?

Group leaders are to serve with Jesus as spiritual parents to their group, identifying the maturity needs of those they are entrusted with, partnering with Jesus and His Spirit to see individuals in their group mature and multiply.

## **Key expectations of a Grow Group Leader:**

- **Be a maturing disciple of Jesus**

- Be intentional to walk with Jesus personally. Desire to know Jesus more. Allow the Spirit to mold you further into His likeness. Be attentive to those Jesus is leading you to disciple and make an effort to reveal Jesus to them, to invest in their growth.

- **Partner with us**

- Join in our larger church family, vision and strategy. Attend leadership training opportunities, keep open lines of communication with Pastor Greg and church leadership.

- **Create a relational environment for growth**

- Head: Create an environment for people to discover Jesus, His voice and His Word, and learn to follow Him.
- Heart: Create an environment for people to connect with the body of Christ, to grow in His character in relationships with others.
- Hands: Create an environment for people to use their time, abilities and resources to reveal Jesus to others. Practically identify the local opportunities Jesus is leading your group to be involved in and join Him on mission to make disciples.

- **Reproduce yourself**

- Be attentive to those Jesus has placed in your group that may have the capacity and calling to become new small group leaders. Invite them to "Follow you as you follow Christ", to see them released as Jesus leads them to become new small group leaders.

# Leadership Workshops

Over the course of the ministry year workshops will be offered to resource our leaders with tools to invest in those they are entrusted. These will be offered in person or online to a maximum of 12 leaders at a time.

- **Making Disciples with Jesus** – This workshop engages leaders to study Jesus' discipleship philosophy and practice. We examine 5 components of Jesus' discipleship way (relationship, apprenticeship, family, pattern and spaces). It can be taken online as 5, 1 hour and 15 min sessions (Midweek 8pm - 9:15pm) or in person as 5, 1 hour and 15 min sessions (Sunday's 9am - 10:15am).
- Next In Person (Sunday Oct 4 - Nov 1)
- Next Online (Monday Oct 5 - Nov 2)

# Maturity Pathway of a Disciple:

"Attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" Ephesians 4:13

## Head – Knowing Jesus *"Follow Me"* (Matt 4:19)



A significant step in maturity occurs when a disciple moves from exploring Jesus to following and surrendering to Him. The Spirit moves in, relationship with Christ is deepened, truth is understood, disciple's thoughts begin to align with Christ's thoughts.

**Maturity Marks** – Confession, Repentance, Faith, Baptism, Understanding of Scripture

## Heart – Becoming Like Jesus *"I will make you"* (Matt 4:19)



As we mature the Spirit changes our character. Our attitudes and priorities begin to align with Christ's, greatly impacting our relationships with others.

**Maturity Marks** – Love, Humility, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Faithfulness, Self-Control.

## Hands – Making Disciples with Jesus *"Fishers of people"* (Matt 4:19)



The mature offer their bodies as living sacrifices. Their actions change as they offer their abilities, finances, time and gifts to serve in Jesus' mission of making disciples. Maturing disciples are empowered by the Spirit to reproduce new disciples.

**Maturity Marks** – Laying on of hands/Commission to Leadership, Receiving of Individuals to Disciple, Serving in one's Spiritual Gifts.

# Q & A

## **Am I committed to be a Small Group Leader forever?**

Only if you sense Jesus calling you to this. I encourage groups to meet over intentional seasons (3 month semesters). As you near the end of your intentional season I will encourage you to ask if Jesus is calling you to commit again to leading your group. Biblically God encourages us to live in rhythms, taking seasons of rests.

## **Our group has children, how do we support their growth?**

What a privilege! Children are a valued part of our OSAC family. They are our first disciple making priority Pastor Greg would love to discuss with you a plan to incorporate a child's spiritual maturity into the life of your group as appropriate.

## **Does it matter how often we meet?**

Yes. To create a healthy environment for growth a group needs to meet regularly (aim to meet at least twice monthly) or for short-term groups we suggest at least 5 sessions.

## **Do you have any suggestions for teaching materials?**

Yes. Click on our Lead Your Group section on the website for resources (group study resources, baptism, and 1 to 1 disciple making guides). In addition, we subscribe to Right Now Media which has 1000's of small group curriculum options.

## **What if I'm having difficulty leading my Group?**

Being a spiritual parent is difficult. Remember your responsibility is to be faithful; God is the one responsible for growth. Depend on the help of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Depend on the larger church body, and our many other ministries. As well we encourage you to co-lead a group with a fellow maturing disciple or another couple. Jesus sent the disciples out in twos for a reason.

## **How can I stay connected?**

Be sure to contact Pastor Greg ([gregorymusselman@gmail.com](mailto:gregorymusselman@gmail.com) or 5194772110). He will meet with you and collect your group information (location, group type, format and commitment as well as your contact info).