

Dear Small Group Leaders,

Happy Spring! We hope you had a restful Spring Break and are excited to continue this journey with you.

As leaders, you play a vital role in our church family. Your dedication to guiding and supporting your group reflects Christ's love. Leading can be challenging, but remember, you're never alone—God equips you with everything you need to lead with grace and compassion.

Let's encourage one another to stay connected, prayerful, and create environments where everyone feels loved and heard. Your commitment is making an eternal impact, and we're grateful for your leadership.

Thank you for your dedication. We're here to support you!

Blessings, Adult Discipleship Team



Important Training Dates:

Coaches: Join us for Quarterly Meeting on March 23 at 12:45 PM in the District!

Apprentice Training: (One time requirement for any Apprentice)

April 5th 8am-4pm

Small Group Leader Training: (for all current leaders)

April 5th 8am- 12pm

Childcare available- deadline to register your kiddos is *Friday 3/27!*See Small Groups website to register!







🎉 Exciting Opportunities Ahead! 🎉



Are you ready to take your leadership to the next level? As our groups grow, we're expanding our coaching team to ensure that we continue developing leaders at every stage. We need more Coaches to guide, equip, and empower our Small Group Leaders (SGLs) as we scale.

Here's the scoop on Small Group Leaders vs. Coaches vs. Apprentices:

Small Group Leader (SGL): As an SGL, you're the goto person for leading your small group—guiding, discipling, and helping everyone grow. It's all about building community, leading, and making an impact where you are.

Coach: If you're stepping into the role of a Coach, get ready to shift gears! Coaches guide, equip, and empower Small Group Leaders (SGLs) to be their best and lead with excellence. You'll build relationships, lead training sessions, and provide ongoing support to ensure everyone is growing together.

Apprentice: Want to grow into an SGL? An Apprentice works closely with an experienced Small Group Leader (SGL) to get hands-on training, debriefing, and hands-on leadership development. Apprenticeship is your opportunity to learn the ropes and step into leadership when the time is right.

<u>Key Coaching Expectations:</u>

- Shepherd and support SGLs.
- Lead quarterly coaching meetings.
- Attend Director Meetings for alignment with vision.
- Observe DS1s for leadership development.
- Help lead training sessions for both SGLs and Apprentices.

If you're interested in becoming a Small Groups Coach, scan the QR code.





Casting Vision for Spiritual Growth: A Key to Small Group Success

As a Small Group Leader, one of your most important roles is casting a compelling vision for your group. Vision serves as the foundation that creates purpose, builds strong relationships, and sets clear expectations for everyone involved. When done well, vision casting not only motivates members to engage in spiritual growth and community but also inspires them to reproduce that growth in others through discipling relationships—ultimately working together to fulfill God's greater plan.

Connect with the Heart of the Group

Vision casting isn't just about goals—it's about helping your group understand their role in God's bigger plan. When members see the "why" behind their involvement, they are more motivated to grow spiritually and build meaningful relationships.

Set Clear Expectations

A well-communicated vision clarifies expectations, creating an environment of safety and accountability. When everyone knows what's expected, they'll show up with intention and contribute more effectively.

Build Relationships and Commitment

When members understand the group's purpose, they engage more deeply and build authentic, supportive relationships centered on mutual growth and accountability.

Encourage Ownership and Engagement

Vision casting invites everyone to take ownership. When members understand the purpose, they'll engage more actively, whether through prayer, participation, or outreach. This deepens their connection to the group and to God's calling for their lives.

Navigate Challenges and Conflict

When conflict arises, a strong vision realigns the group's focus, fostering unity. It helps members move past challenges and refocus on spiritual growth and community.

Include Spiritual Maturity

Every vision should emphasize spiritual maturity. Your group's participation isn't just about community—it's about deepening their relationship with God and growing in their faith.



How to Cast Vision Effectively

Here are some practical steps for casting vision with your small group:

- **Pray for Guidance:** Seek God's heart for your group. Pray for wisdom in how to cast the vision that is aligned with His plans and purposes.
- **Communicate Often**: Share the vision early and continuously. Make it a regular part of meetings, personal conversations, and group activities. The more you communicate it, the clearer and stronger it becomes.
- **Be Authentic**: Share your own journey and personal experiences to inspire your group. Authenticity breeds trust, and when they see your passion for the vision, they will be more inclined to engage.
- **Celebrate Growth**: Recognize and celebrate the milestones along the way. Acknowledge the spiritual progress and transformation happening within the group. This reinforces the vision and keeps everyone motivated.

Conclusion

Casting vision is not just about direction—it's about purpose. It's about creating a culture where everyone in the group is invested in growing spiritually and building authentic relationships with one another. As you lead with a clear, compelling vision, you'll empower your group members to not only grow in their own faith but also to actively disciple others, sharing what they've learned and helping others walk in spiritual growth. By doing so, you'll see your group thrive in both community and spiritual growth, becoming a multiplying force for God's kingdom.

Application:

How does the group's purpose and vision resonate with you personally? Can you share a specific moment when you felt God's call to lead this group?

What clear expectations can you set at the start of your group to help everyone feel a sense of responsibility and commitment?

When faced with conflict or discouragement, how can you bring the group back to the core vision and refocus on spiritual growth?