

WayPoint Small Group Leader Training

I. Introduction

Epic-epic n

1. a lengthy narrative poem in elevated language celebrating the adventures and achievements of a legendary or traditional hero, for example, The Bible.
2. a long series of events characterized by adventures or struggle

The Call

Matthew 28:19-20

The Example

Acts 2:42

Our Mission

WayPoint Church exists to develop 360 degree followers of Christ

Purpose of Small Groups

To provide a predictable 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. Group System

A. LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Group Director and Group Leaders

B. ROLE OF THE GROUP LEADER

1. The group leader serves as a shepherd by navigating and monitoring
2. There is a difference between leading the group and leading the group meeting
3. The “wins” for the Group Leader are:
 - When they personally grow in the three vital relationships
 - When they shepherd the group members’ growth in the three vital relationships

- When they create a predictable environment by successfully executing the six leader essentials

C. THE ROLE OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR

1. The group director serves as a shepherd of shepherds by supporting and monitoring the health of their leaders and their groups
2. The Group Director provides leaders with vision, direction and support
3. The wins for the Group Director are:
 - when they pursue growth in the three vital relationships
 - when they shepherd the leaders' growth in the three vital relationships
 - when they equip the leaders, to shepherd group members' growth in the three vital relationships and create a predictable environment by successfully executing the six leader essentials

III. Group Environment

A. MEETING FORMAT

1. The group meeting includes four (Acts 2:42) components:
 - Bible Study
 - Fellowship
 - Food
 - Prayer
2. It's important to begin light and end light
3. As the evening wears on the concentration level wears out

B. THE COVENANT

1. The covenant is a tool to identify expectations
2. Filling out the covenant provides group members with greater ownership for the group

IV. Leader Development

A. TRAINING EVENTS

1. The New Leader Orientation provides leaders with the fundamentals for successfully leading a small group
2. Two annual training events, one in the spring and one in the fall, allows leaders to be equipped around one of the six leader essentials

B. ONE ON ONES

1. One on ones provide the leader with the opportunity to connect with the group director for more focused discussions regarding their group
2. Leaders are asked to connect with the director for a one on one four times a year

C. EVALUATION

1. Regular evaluation is an important tool used in monitoring the health of a group and the effectiveness of a leader
2. Leaders are asked to have group members fill out an assessment at the midpoint of their group's life cycle and at the conclusion of the group's life cycle

V. Six Leader Essentials

A. THINK LIFE CHANGE

1. This essential answers the question of why we do groups
2. Over time, groups can easily drift
3. Keeping the life change goal in front of the group challenges leaders to keep the group meetings purposeful

B. CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS

1. This essential focuses on how you build community in a group
2. Relationships take time to build
3. Healthy relationships require regular relational deposits

C. PROMOTE PARTICIPATION

1. This essential focuses on how you lead the group meeting
2. Group members should be encouraged to participate in the facilitation and leadership of the group meetings
3. Shared participation creates broader group ownership

D. REPLACE YOURSELF

1. This essential focuses on how you intentionally apprentice
2. Apprenticing is the most effective way to train new group leaders

3. Every leader is responsible for passing along to others the knowledge, skills and opportunities for leadership
 4. Our multiplication strategy requires the need for apprentices
- E. PROVIDE CARE
1. This essential focuses on how the leader deals with tough situations
 2. Life is messy and challenging times are a normal part of any group experience
 3. Meaningful support during difficult times comes from people you know well
- F. MULTIPLY INFLUENCE
1. This essential focuses on how the leader maximizes their impact
 2. The leader's influence can continue past their current group through multiplication
 3. Ways to reduce trauma of multiplication:
 - Use the covenant to establish expectations
 - Enlist an apprentice mid-way through your group's life cycle
 - Talk about multiplying early and often
 - Multiply around the best times (January and September) to form a group

VI. Ten Ways to Kill a Group

1. Don't meet regularly
2. Have too many members
3. Have too few members
4. Don't use a covenant
5. Don't deal with problem people
 - The dominator
 - The terminator
 - The exterminator
 - The lacerator
 - The iterator
6. Allow prayer request time to become story-telling time
7. Don't follow a curriculum
8. Allow members to bring guests without clearing it with other members
9. Ignore the needs of the group members
10. Never multiply to form a new group

Why Does WayPoint Do Small Groups?

We believe that this is the place where significant life change occurs. Small groups are where real life and real issues are discussed. This is the environment where we celebrate the successes and good times of life, as well as comfort one another during the tough and disappointing times. It is a place to be encouraged, equipped, and challenged to become a 360 degree follower of Jesus Christ.

When Do Small Groups Meet?

Each small group decides when and where it wants to meet. We can help you find a group that is meeting on a particular night or in a certain area of the county and connect you with them.

How Long Does A Small Group Last?

Many small groups form and immediately commit to meet for 12-24 months. However, we also offer Starter Groups that are an introductory step into group life that last approximately eight weeks. At the end of eight weeks, the group members can decide to continue as a small group and extend their commitment, or they can dissolve to find other group members. Your group decides the length of time that your group will meet together.