

hope

**COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

HomeGroup Leader's Guide

Our Vision: Be the Church... Grow in Community... Offer Hope

- Be the Church
- **Grow in Community**
- Offer Hope

Grow in Community: HomeGroup Vision

So that you may live a life *worthy of the Lord* and *please him in every way*: **bearing fruit** in every good work, **growing in the knowledge of God**, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great **endurance and patience**, and **giving joyful thanks** to the Father. (Colossians 1:9-12)

Bearing Fruit:

- Service projects together.
 - Outreach ministry
 - Para church ministries
- Support a missionary.
 - 10% of group giving goes to missionary.
 - Constant encouragement. (Zoom meeting, care packages, Notes, accountability)
 - Prayer
 - Hosting when in town
- Multiplication
 - Birth 4-6 members. Growth 8-12 members. Multiply 12-18 members
- Providing for groups needs.
 - Prayer
 - Financial giving
 - Visiting home/ providing meals for each other
- Evangelism
 - Neighbors
 - Prayer 5 challenge
- Encourage group to use their gifts to serve the Body.

Growing in knowledge:

- Growing in biblical understanding
- Growing in biblical wisdom
- Growing in sanctification

Endurance and patience:

- Prayer, testimonies, living life with each other and building relationship with each member.

Giving joyful thanks:

- Celebrating together

Small Group Leader Description

Qualifications:

- Biblical & character:
 - Growing intimacy and devotion to God. (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)
 - Humility (1 Peter 5:6)
 - A Shepherd's heart (1 Peter 5:1-5)
 - Faithful, Available, Teachable
- Church qualifications:
 - Become a member at Hope.
 - Submit to the leadership of your pastor.
 - Responsive and driven to embrace HomeGroup vision.
 - HomeGroup Leader's Training.

Responsibilities:

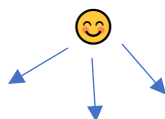
- Commit to the HomeGroup vision.
 - Lead/initiate group in bearing fruit.
 - Facilitate conversation that promotes group to grow in the knowledge of the Lord.
 - Provide a space where vision can be fostered and where people can grow in relationship.
- Be hospitable.
 - Prepare in advance.
 - Provide food if possible.
 - Prepare a good space (seating, lighting, etc.)
- Maintain communication with HomeGroup Pastor.
- Shepherd your group.
 - Prayer
 - Pursuing
 - Care and walk through conflict.

Tools for HomeGroup Leaders

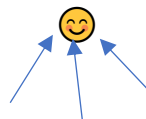
1. Be a Facilitator:

- Communicates with all members in the group.
- Helps discover conclusions.
- Gives good feedback.
- Asks open ended questions.
- Goal when Facilitating

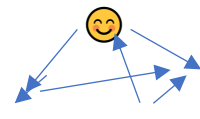
Leader
Dominated



Leader
Centered



Good Group
Discussion



2. Asking Good Questions:

- Think through O.A.R.S.
 - O: Ask open ended questions. Closed questions are ‘yes’ or ‘no’ questions. Start with Who, What, Where, When or How.
 - A: Affirm some aspect of a person’s response to the question
 - R: Reflect the responses to the rest of the group
 - Don’t be the answer person in your group. Have others answer someone else questions.
 - Summarize. What is the biblical conclusion to the discussion.
- Reasons questions fail:
 - Too deep: Might be too hard to answer or require lots of thought from people before they answer.
 - Too easy: The answer is way too obvious.
 - Too vague: People need to understand what you are asking. Do not be afraid to rephrase questions.
 - Too personal: Be sensitive in asking people personal questions. Some might not want to answer in front of whole group but may answer in smaller setting.

3. Managing Hard People

Debbie Derailer

Debbie is sincere in what she says. Unfortunately, she gets sidetracked into issues outside the scope of the meeting’s topic. A discussion on baptism can easily conclude with the sovereignty of God or a good movie for the group to see.

Tips for dealing with Debbie

- Say, “That’s a good question, but we really can’t deal with it right now. Let’s talk about it together after the meeting.”
- Remind the group of the issue to be discussed.
- Give a very brief answer and move on.
- Don’t belittle her or criticize her for raising the issue.
- Respond to her question with another question returning to the issue.

Molly the Monopolizer

Molly could easily earn herself the nickname “motor-mouth.” Much of what she says is worthwhile but is often lost in a constant stream of words. She answers every question and has an opinion on every topic. Without a good facilitator, Molly will monopolize the discussion.

Tips for dealing with Molly

- Strong eye contact encourages participation, so sit beside her, not right across from her.
- Use specific names to ask others what they have to say about the issue at hand.
- After class, complement her willingness to contribute and ask her for assistance to encourage others to participate. Perhaps she could serve as

the group “summarizer.” This provides opportunity to briefly state what has been discussed and ensure she listens to others share.

Ollie Onlooker

Ollie is the opposite of Molly. He looks, smiles, and never says a word. He wants other group members to accept his quiet participation, though sometimes he may feel comfortable with sharing.

Tips for dealing with Ollie

- Don't pressure him to share. Remember that group participation does not always mean active verbal participation. Mentally, Ollie is listening and thinking through the issues. Over time he may feel more comfortable to discuss.
- Ask him an easy question.
- Involve him in the group catch-up time before the discussion begins. Typically, Ollie is less threatened at this time.
- Encourage him when he shares. Say, “That's a great comment.”

Fred the Final Authority

Fred is typically an intellectual giant who takes great pleasure digging into scripture. Name a topic and he is sure to know more than you.

Tips for dealing with Fred

- Enlist his help – perhaps even let him facilitate some of the discussion. For examples, he could be given 10 minutes to present clear interpretation on the Biblical passages.
- Speak to him after class. Humbly admit he knows more than you.
- Don't be threatened. Be thrilled that he is in your group. He could be an asset.

Doug the Deviator

Doug enjoys controversy. He generally isn't aware he makes others feel uncomfortable or threatened. He enjoys throwing a curve ball at the group that he may or may not agree with.

Tips for dealing with Doug

- Love him and appreciate his differences.
- Emphasize that your home group involves everyone's interaction and discussion.
- If on a controversial topic, acknowledge that you are discussing the issue from a particular perspective.
- Talk to him after class about the position of your church on this issue.

Willie Wisecracker

Willie is the life of the party. He wants to “lighten up” the issues and have some fun. He feels called to the ministry of humor and unfortunately has the potential to make light of serious issues.

Tips for dealing with Willie

- Enjoy his humor. Laughter can build bridges to meaningful discussion.
- After the humorous remark, ask him what he really thinks about the issue.

Ned The Non-Christian

HomeGroups can have non-Christians attend. While people like Ned may perceive himself as saved, discussions might reveal the opposite.

Tips for dealing with Ned

- Don't single him out during class or make him the “group project.”
- Treat him like everyone else but be sensitive to his presence.
- Meet with him individually outside of the group to answer any questions he has about the gospel.

Bernard the Belittler

Bernard means well, but unfortunately, he minimizes the contributions of others and has three reasons why everyone else is wrong.

Tips for dealing with Bernard

- Thank him for his interest.
- Be patient. Don't answer a fool according to his folly.
- Tell him you will be glad to discuss your differences after your home group (there may be an underlying problem).
- In private, gently let him know how he comes across to people (he is probably unaware).
- Stick up for others in the group when they are belittled.

Practitioner Phil

Phil seeks to move quickly to the application of the issue. His main question is “How does it apply to me?” Without a good facilitator, the discussion might move to application before exploring the reasons change is necessary.

Tips for dealing with Phil

- Appreciate his desire to apply truth.

- Have him serve as the group's "application monitor." He can hold the group accountable for previous issues and suggest ways that the current issue can be individually and corporately applied.
- Allow other members to add to his suggestions.
- Help him to see the necessity of building a solid foundation for application.

Counselee Clara

Clara yearns to have the group meet her emotional needs. She views home group as a therapy session and hopes to find help for her problems.

Tips for dealing with Clara

- Realize that Clara may need professional help. Home group may not be the best place to deal with the struggles Clara is facing.
- Meet with her outside of class and speak to her about possible assistance that the church offers.
- Speak to a pastor for help.

Resources for HomeGroups

Studies:

1. Sermon Study. Use bulletin in the Hope App for notes or take your own notes. Read the passage together as a group. Come up with questions to help lead discussion to process how the Lord spoke during each sermon.
2. Study God's Word:
 - C.O.M.A. Method
 - C: Context- What kind of genre? Who is it written to? What circumstances or passages surround the text that might help you understand the purpose? Cultural context?
 - O: Observation- What word or phrases stick out? Is anything repeated or emphasized? What do you think are the main points of the passage? Is there anything surprising in text?
 - M: Meaning- What does this passage teach us about God? How does this passage relate to Jesus? What does this passage teach us about ourselves? Do other scripture text come to mind when reading the passage?
 - A: Application- How does this passage challenge or confirm your thinking? How does this passage challenge the way you live? What sin does this passage reveal in your heart?
3. Discovery Series: 4 Books
4. Hope Doctrine Study- Books found in office.
5. The Chosen Study Series- A study that follows the show *Chosen*.
6. Send any resources you have used to add to the list.

Childcare:

- Each month Hope can help pay \$50.00 for childcare needs for your group.