

KEY PRACTICES FOR RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP & GROUP CARE

A Guide for Community Group Leaders

"However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them properly: if prophecy, in proportion to one's faith; if service, in the act of serving; or the one who teaches, in the act of teaching; or the one who exhorts, in the work of exhortation; the one who gives, with generosity; the one who is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness." — **Romans 12:6–8 (NASB)**

1. Cultivate a Culture of Love and Hospitality

LEAD WITH LOVE

Make every person feel valued, safe, and seen.

PRACTICE OPEN-HEARTED HOSPITALITY

Warm greetings, shared space, and intentional presence create trust.

RESPOND WITH GRACE

When conflict or messiness arises, choose compassion over criticism.



2. Disciple Through Relationship, Not Just Content

PRIORITIZE CONNECTION

Spend time before and after gatherings simply being with people.

ASK INTENTIONAL QUESTIONS

"How are you, really? And how are you spiritually?"



MODEL VULNERABILITY

Appropriate honesty gives others permission to be authentic.

LISTEN DEEPLY

Reflect back what you hear; resist the urge to fix.

3. Use Your Gifts, and Empower Others to Use Theirs

IDENTIFY YOUR STRENGTHS

Teaching, serving, encouragement, leadership, mercy. Lead from how God has wired you.

INVITE OTHERS TO CONTRIBUTE

Shared ownership strengthens the group's spiritual health.

AFFIRM GIFTS YOU SEE

A few words of recognition can unlock someone's calling.

4. Practice Consistent, Thoughtful Care

CHECK IN REGULARLY

Texts, calls, or quick prayers keep people connected.

NOTICE ABSENCES

Reach out with genuine concern, never guilt.

CREATE RHYTHMS OF SUPPORT

Meal trains, prayer chains, or shared resources help meet practical needs.

CELEBRATE SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Small wins matter, name them often.

5. Lead with Diligence and Joy

PREPARE INTENTIONALLY

Thoughtful planning honors your group.

STAY FLEXIBLE

People matter more than agendas.

SERVE WITH A CHEERFUL HEART

Joy is contagious and strengthens community.

PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP

Intercession aligns your leadership with God's heart.

Lead with love, disciple through relationship, use your gifts faithfully, and care for your group with joy.