



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome!

We're so excited to have you be part of what God is doing in and through CenterPoint. We hope you love serving in CP YTH as you see the impact you make and develop relationships with students and other volunteers.

We'll be right here with you—encouraging and equipping you to do the work of ministry to your students. In this guide, you'll find everything you'll need to be a great small group leader.

With Gratitude,
CP YTH

Our Mission and Culture

CP YTH is a ministry of CenterPoint Church, whose mission is to “make Jesus the CenterPoint of our lives” and our Vision is to “make Jesus known from the CenterPoint of Utah Valley.”

We believe any student needs Jesus just as much *now* as they will when they step into adulthood. In CP YTH, we pray that students know they belong here, believe in Jesus, and become lifelong followers of Him. (Phil. 1:6).

Our culture dictates how we accomplish our mission. Making Jesus the CenterPoint of Utah Valley in CP YTH looks like Belong, Believe, and Become.

Belong

Students belong in CP YTH before they believe. We hope eventually they believe, but we must earn the right to be heard.

Believe

Our prayer for every student is that they would believe in Jesus and have life in His name. We plant seeds and water to let God provide growth towards faith.

Become

What we believe about God shapes who we become. Following Jesus is a daily pursuit and lifelong journey we hope to model for our students.

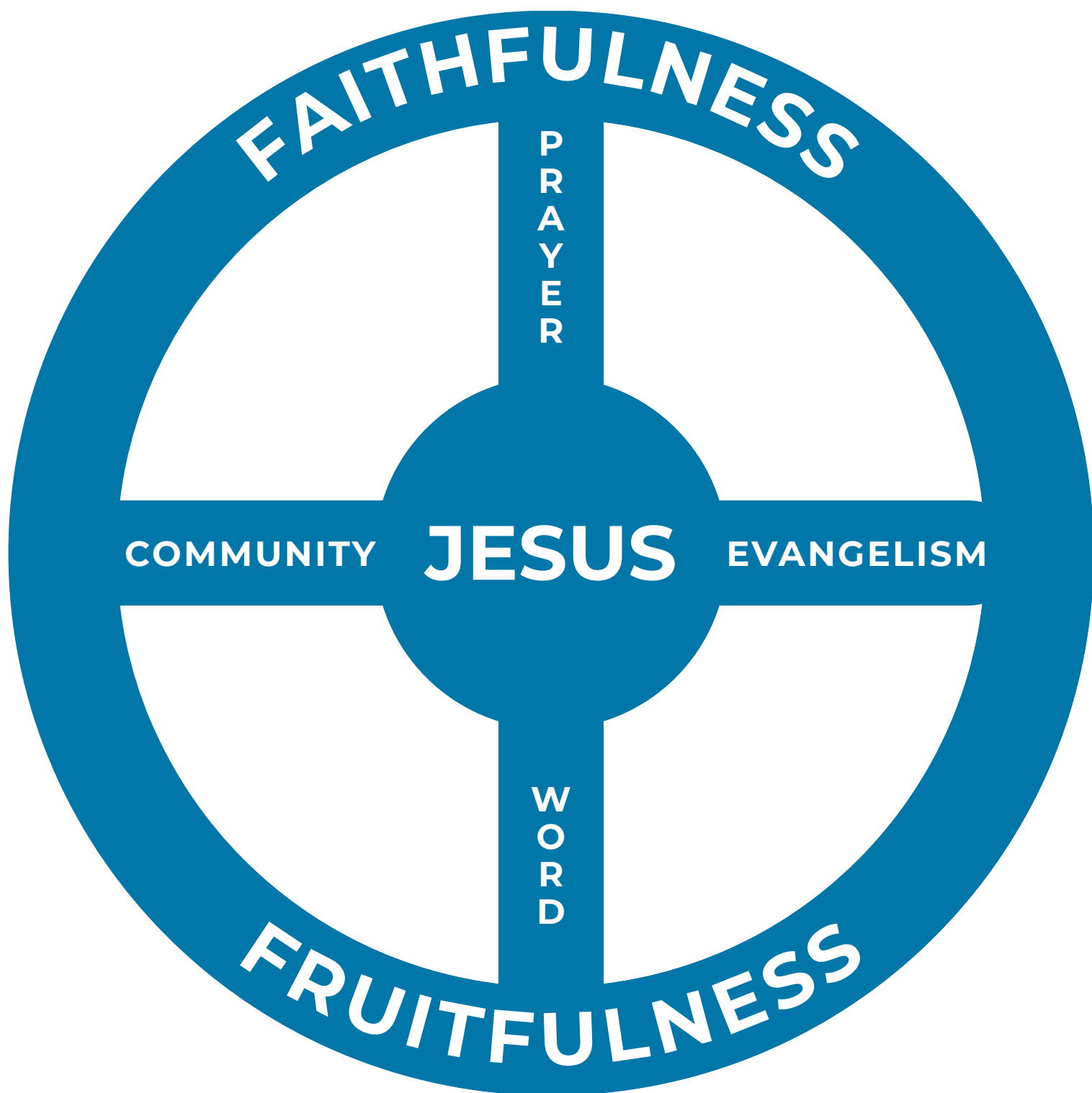
Our Goal

Holistic spiritual health and maturity is the goal for our students, modeled by our leaders. The best way to measure these attributes is a common theme used throughout all of Scripture: faithfulness and fruitfulness.

On the next page the Christian life as a wheel. The hub and spokes work together to keep the wheel functioning effectively. If the spokes on a wheel are weak or broken, then the wheel will not spin in the way it was designed.

In the same way, the design of fruitfulness for the Christian life happens through the hub or center of our lives fixed on Jesus. Our spokes are the vertical (up and down) relationship we have with God and the horizontal (side-by-side) relationships we have with others.

Seeking God in his Word and praying are the fruits of a personal, up and down, relationship with Him. Seeking others in Fellowship and Evangelism are fruits of horizontal, side-by side, relationships with others. Pursuing all four areas is living fruitfully and this is the life we pray our students experience.



Our Method: Fill Up, Pour Out

As Small Group Leaders, our mission is to make Jesus the CenterPoint of our lives and see our students we are leading make Jesus the CenterPoint of their lives. However, we cannot give what we don't have and we can't lead someone to where we are not.

The Apostle Paul instructs his apprentice, Timothy, in 2 Timothy 2:1-2 to **fill up and then pour out**.

Fill Up

2 Timothy 2:1

"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus"

We must be strengthened and filled up by the grace that is in Jesus before we expect to help strengthen others. Practically, this looks like

- Healthy rhythms of reading God's Word, prayer, and spending time with God alone
- Walking in obedience and living a life which reflects God's work in your heart
- Community in the form of a Small Group that's able to pour into you the same way you hope to pour into these students

The outpouring of walking in step with the Spirit fuels us to *pour out* to others.

Pour Out

2 Timothy 2:2

and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

From a place of strength by his grace, then, we can lead our students to experiencing Jesus in the ways He changed our lives uniquely.

Our Programming

CP YTH executes its mission, goals, and method by running two similar yet distinct programs for both Junior High and High School students. Barring the differences between a High School and Junior High Student (spiritually, cognitively, relationally, etc.), our respective ministries aim to reach our students with the Gospel where they are.

Sunday Morning Bible Study and Wednesday Night YTH Night serve as our two touchpoints with both groups.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Junior High - 9:00-10:00am

High School - 10:30-11:30am

YTH Night

Both - 7:00-8:45 pm

See on the next few pages the schedule and execution of both touchpoints.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Both Junior High and High School will have the same schedule at different times.

Junior High

High School

8:50	<u>Pre-Bible Study Leader Prayer</u> Led by Youth Lead to pray for students and set up room if needed	10:20
8:55	<u>Welcome Time</u> Doors open for Junior High 10-Min Timer Begins Music Playing	10:25
9:05	Stage Game and Message Intro Bumper Video plays Host on stage, ready to lead game Any announcements about YTH Night, Events, etc. are given by host	10:35
9:13	Stream Worship Live stream worship from CenterPoint's Website Lights come all the way down	10:43
9:25	Small Groups Host Dismisses Small Groups to their Areas Make Introductions with Group if Needed 30-35-Minute Discussion with Questions Provided	10:55
9:55	Prayer Ask students for prayer requests and close out	11:25
10:00	Dismiss	11:30

YTH NIGHT

Junior High and High School will occupy the building at the same time, but operate on different schedules unless otherwise indicated below.

Junior High

High School

6:30

Leader Meeting

Adult Classroom

Led by Youth Lead or Wednesday
Night Coordinator
Discuss Schedule, Training,
Questions, and Pray for the Night

Leader Meeting

Office

Led by Youth Lead or Wednesday
Night Coordinator
Discuss Schedule, Training,
Questions, and Pray for the Night

7:00

Students Arrive

Foyer/Gym

Small Group Leaders Welcome and Check-In Students

7:10

Stage Game and Message

YTH Room

5-Minute Stage Game
10-Minute Message

Extended Hang/Games

Foyer/Gym

Gym Game led by Small Group
Leader or Student

7:25

Worship

YTH Room

High School joins Junior High Worship together

7:45

Small Groups

Auditorium

35-Minute Discussion with
Questions Provided

Message

YTH Room

3-5 Minute Leader/Student Story
12-15-Minute Message

8:20

Game

Gym

20-Minute Game

Small Groups

YTH Room/Adult Classroom

35-Minute Discussion with
Questions Provided

8:10

8:45

YTH Night Ends

Role and Responsibilities

Small Group Leaders in CP YTH are the lifeblood of the ministry. We don't reach the youth of our church without Small Group Leaders. Your role is multifaceted (as seen below), but your main role description is:

Show up for students and shepherd them towards spiritual growth

The responsibilities associated with this role are:

- Live according to the Leader Lifestyle Expectations and let your life be an example/personification of Jesus to those around you
- Attend CP YTH Sunday Morning Bible Studies and YTH Nights every week*
- Be willing and ready to lead discussions for Bible Studies
- If interested, Host and/or Teach for YTH Nights when
- Check-in students on both Sundays and Wednesday Nights
- Lead or Co-Lead a Cabin or Room of your students at Camp in June up at Big Canyon Ranch for 3-4 Days
- Keep a good rapport with parents as opportunities arise. Always encourage positive relationship between parents and students
- Keep students safe by directing any concerns or questions to Youth Lead and follow-up with students/parents accordingly
- Maintain an open line of communication with Youth Lead and meet on a quarterly basis to develop both spiritually and as a leader
- Be very down for a Leaders-Only Hang 1x or 2x a semester

**Leading a Small Group requires consistency with the ultimate reward of seeing your students love Jesus just like you do. The weekly commitment is certainly flexible with vacations, sickness, and other reasons to miss. However, if you cannot maintain a weekly commitment on a regular basis, this may not be the season for you to lead.*

Small Group Leader Lifestyle Expectations and Commitment

The expectation for all Small Group Leaders is to embody living above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2-5) by honoring God with your actions, thoughts, and words. Perfection is not the standard, but we ask of you a commitment to living a life that honors God, your neighbors, and yourself. To be more specific, below are some lifestyle expectations for CP YTH Small Group Leaders:

- Prioritize your relationship with the Lord, your family, and the local church above any serving opportunities. If serving in CP YTH is detrimental to any of these core pillars of your spiritual and personal growth, this isn't your season to serve.
- CenterPoint Church abides by a New Testament Sexual Ethic which calls for purity and faithfulness, teaching that sexual relations are reserved for marriage between a man and a woman. It emphasizes fleeing from sexual immorality and living in holiness, honoring God with one's body (1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Hebrews 13:4, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).
 - Sexual sin such as a lapse in judgment should be brought into the light by seeking repentance and restoration. If this happens, the Youth Lead and the Small Group Leader will determine the next steps in how to proceed. Ask for examples if this is something you need clarification on.
 - On the other hand, if your lifestyle consists of walking in unrepentant sin such as being sexually active or living with a significant other before marriage, this will disqualify you from serving with students.
- Alcohol consumption, within moderation, is acceptable, but drunkenness is unacceptable (Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:21; Ephesians 5:18).
- Social media posts should reflect a God-fearing character that refrains from swearing, inappropriate content, and dishonoring image-bearers. Students are following you, so be wise in your judgment. (Philippians 4:8)

Small Group Leader Lifestyle Expectations and Commitment

- Other rules are no swearing, drug usage (always pursuing sober-mindedness (1 Peter 5:8-9)), and other actions that would jeopardize your legitimacy as a ministry leader.

To commit to the role's responsibilities and lifestyle standards, please text the Youth Lead a screenshot of this page indicating you read this.

Practical Rules and Guidelines

Being a small group leader comes with a great sense of responsibility. Success as a leader will only happen by acting with wisdom. Some guidelines CP YTH have been set over the years to practically lead wisely.

The guidelines to follow as a Small Group Leader are:

- No scenario is appropriate to be alone with a student of the opposite gender. This includes car rides, text conversations, or any scenario where you'd be in private.
 - High School Leaders: Texting students is encouraged, but only message a student of the opposite gender with their small group leader.
 - Junior High Leaders: Only in very unique circumstances would you text a student. They're generally too young for the follow-up that a High School student would want or need.

Ministering Through Abuse

As a small group leader, you are a legally obligated mandated reporter in the state of Utah to report issues of abuse. In the same way the precedent must be established between leader and student that dangers of safety will be reported, the same applies to dangers of abuse.

Any physical, emotional, or sexual abuse situations that arise, you must inform the Youth Lead to report accordingly.

In the scenario when the abuser is the parent, reporting with the Youth Lead will determine when and if parents are informed of the abuse report. Otherwise, parents must be informed.

Ministering Through Suicidal Ideation and Planning

According to the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, in the 12 months preceding the survey, Utah High School Students reported the following:

- 37% felt sad or hopeless
- 22.9% seriously considered attempting suicide
- 18.5% made a suicide plan
- 9% attempted suicide one or more times
- 3.2% had a suicide attempt that required medical attention

It's a devastating reality that these statistics are as high as they are, which means we must be equipped to lead our students and minister to them amidst their challenges.

Given these challenges, our number one job is to keep students safe. If a student tells you they are self-harming, seriously considering attempting suicide, or have made a suicide plan, you must let their parents and the Youth Lead know. Other situations that threaten the students' safety are drug or alcohol abuse and must be relayed to parents and the Youth Lead.

However, there exists a fine line you must hold between the student's trust and safety. Any one-on-one interactions with potentially vulnerable students, the precedent must be established between the leader and the student that any safety concerns must be brought to parents. With that precedent clearly established, students know they are safe and can trust their Small Group Leader.

Examples of vulnerable topics that don't constitute a conversation with parents are feelings of sadness or hopelessness, pornography use, and others. With these situations, the encouragement for the student is to tell their parents themselves.

Best Practices for Leading a Small Group

- **Know everybody's name:** If there is a new person, be mindful of them. Let the ice-breaker be a chance to introduce yourself, get to know the new person, and for them to learn everyone's name.
- **Be prepared:** Review the Leader Guide and/or Discussion Questions ahead of time.
- **The questions are a guide, not a script:** The questions are meant to jumpstart conversations that are on topic. Don't feel like you have to answer each question, but also make sure you're staying on topic.
- **Never be the first person to answer a question:** Sometimes letting the silence carry is the best thing you can do for your group.
- **The smaller the groups, the better:** If you have multiple small group leaders, consider splitting your group in half for more fruitful dialogue.
- **Define who leads the discussion:** This person can change week to week, but it's helpful when one person carries the conversation and the other leaders support as needed.
- **"I don't know" can be the best answer:** Saying you don't know will help them realize they don't need to have all of the answers. But don't leave it at that - try to find the answer and get back with that student the next time you see them.
- **Have fun!:** Your students will learn to trust you when you learn to have fun with them. This is all about relationship building and if you're not having fun, then find ways to make it fun.