



Home Group - New Leader Training

1. Leader Expectations

- a. **Be committed** to the 6 wks of groups. Commit your time, effort and attention every single week to make these groups what they should be. You are training and building people up and it's a ministry. God is working through you and the space you provide for others to encounter him more, so it's really important that we give it our all for those 6 weeks.
- b. **Be consistent in**
 - i. pursuing Jesus personally so that your cup is full and you have enough to spill over to fill other's cups each week. You are not personally responsible to solely pour into your group members, however, as the leader, people will look to you for help with weighing in on questions and will take cues based on your example of how they should be living your life, especially if they are brand new to following Jesus.
 - ii. Also, be consistent with your start/stop time, your demeanor each week, your schedule etc. Predictability in groups creates comfortability. People will be more inclined to participate when they can anticipate how things will go.

2. Group Expectations

- a. **Create a comfortable environment** for others to feel welcome in your home. This starts with the greeting they get when they show up at your door.
 - i. Overly welcome them inside and show them around to places they would need to know like the bathroom and where their kids will go if you are providing childcare etc.
 - ii. Always have background music going, this eases awkward silence and helps provide a lively atmosphere from the beginning. Don't forget to turn it back on if you turn it down for discussion time.

- iii. Ask questions to really get to know people, remember people really want to be needed, known + loved. A successful home group is one where everyone involved feels a deeper sense of connection to others in the group and everyone experiences mutually appreciated conversations that really move one another forward in their relationship with Jesus.
 - iv. Be open and transparent, vulnerability connects us to people and makes room for others to feel comfortable doing the same.
 - b. **Commit to the content** at hand and keep others on track by steering conversations in the right direction. This is not a time for us as the leader or any other group member to push personal views on politics, economics or any other religious type debates.
- 3. Your home group plan
 - a. **Access the [GROUPS](#) website.** This is the software used to keep track of members and all communication.
 - i. Accept group member requests
 - ii. Communicate any needed information with whole group
 - b. **Set the time.** Pick what day, time of the week and where you will meet if it's not going to be in your home
 - c. **How to recruit**
 - i. Plan to free up some time on 3/13 + 3/20 to be around the HG sign up tables before and after experiences to encourage people to stop and sign up for a group. You can invite them to your group or help them find one that works for their schedule.
 - ii. Invite others you know at JRNY to join your group
 - iii. Invite friends, family and co-workers to your group. Homegroups have been the starting point for several people that attend JRNY now.
 - d. **How to plan for food**
 - i. Contact your group prior to the first week and suggest they all bring some sort of appetizer or dessert.
 - ii. Decide each week when you meet what type of food everyone will bring the following week. Several groups do theme nights like pasta, breakfast, and mexican nights.
 - iii. Sign up genius is a great tool to stay organized for this
 - e. **How to handle Childcare**
 - i. If you plan to offer childcare, secure a sitter personally or use [care.com](#), a company we have used to find childcare for church events in the past and have had great experiences.
 - ii. Groups typically pay \$10 per family each week regardless of the number of kids ensuring the sitter is at least getting \$15/hr. To secure the sitter for the following week in case others have to cancel we suggest having each family pay in advance for the week ahead.
 - iii. Negative behaviors- Instruct the sitter to give one warning, if behavior persists then give a 2-5 min time out depending on the child's age, if negative behavior continues after this get the parent to come and have a conversation with the child. If further intervention seems needed, please reach out to us to come up with a plan.

f. How to access content

- i. Visit [here](#), you will find each week's video/podcast content and questions, as well as music playlists to set the tone.

g. Time management

- i. The first time you meet with your group, lay out a clear plan for how each meeting will go and set expectations for group discussion. For example, how long will discussion time last, encourage that you want group participation but that we have to be mindful of our time and so when we share make sure we stay on point so that many others have time to share as well, how will you wrap up discussion time (prayer requests etc.)
- ii. Typically groups last around 2 hours. To ensure you have adequate time for eating, content and discussion, we suggest setting timers for each one. This gives everyone cues to move on and stay on task.

4. Closing Thoughts

- a. Don't feel inadequate to lead-** You said yes to leading a group and no matter how little or long you have been following Jesus, the enemy doesn't want you to move forward in action. You will have thoughts that you don't know enough, can't pray enough, and can't provide enough for your group. Don't give any room for these thoughts in your head. You said yes and God will give you what you need. His word says He works through the least of these to confound the wise. He just needs a willing heart to match his power to. So walk in that confidence and trust He's going to be present in your groups.