

SMALL GROUP LEADER FALL TRAINING

AUGUST 29, 2026

1

WHY SMALL GROUPS?

2

Create a 30-Second response to give to someone who asks you, "Why should I join a Small Group?"

WHY SMALL GROUPS?

3

Grow together to be more like Jesus.

WHY SMALL GROUPS?

4

Pick 1 Bible passage as your go-to reason for joining a Small Group.

WHY SMALL GROUPS?

5

HOW DO WE LIVE OUT THE PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUP?

6

(Gospel)(Vulnerability)(Time)
= Transformation

THE PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUP

7

CORE VALUE STATEMENT:
We are a group of people growing together to be more like Jesus by loving one another ... forgiving one another ... serving one another ... submitting to one another ... being devoted to one another ...encouraging one another ... and living on God's mission.

THE PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUP

8

What are some practical ways to regularly highlight the Core Values?

THE PURPOSE OF SMALL GROUP

9

S.O.S.

10

SEVERITY:

1	5	10
Wisdom issue Mild Stress Everyday problems	Moderate conflict Distressed, but functioning More complex issues	Crisis Stronghold sin Significant Suffering

S.O.S.

11

OWNERSHIP:

1	5	10
Repentant Open Highly teachable	Sees sin Makes excuses Moderately teachable	Blameshifts Defensive Denial - not teachable

S.O.S.

12

SUPPORT:

1

Close to family
Intimate and accountable
Vulnerable in small group

5

Some family support
Few friends
Somewhat open to small group

10

Estranged from family
No friends
Isolated - not in a small group

S.O.S.

13

SOS THRESHOLDS:

- **3-10: Handle it in the Group**
- **11-20: Make sure a Pastor is aware, coordinate as necessary**
- **21-30: Involve Pastoral staff in working toward the solution**

HOW TO ... START YOUR GROUP

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Discuss where you would place the
SOS Examples on the chart.

S.O.S.

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**HOW TO ...
START YOUR GROUP**

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FIRST MEETING PLAN:

- **Serve a Meal**
- **Do something fun!**
- **Cast Vision for the Purpose**
- **Dream and Pray Over the Year**
- **CV & Commitment**

HOW TO ... START YOUR GROUP

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TYPICAL MEETING BREAKDOWN:

7:00-7:10	Details, Testimony & Prayer
7:10-7:50	Discussion
7:50-8:30	Mutual Ministry & Prayer
8:30-9:00	Fellowship & Snack

HOW TO ... START YOUR GROUP

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BUILDING VULNERABILITY:

HOW TO ... START YOUR GROUP

19

Brainstorm some Icebreaker Questions at your table.

HOW TO ... START YOUR GROUP

20

USE THE QUESTIONS WELL

21

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (James 1:22-25)

USE THE QUESTIONS WELL

22

BREAK

23

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

24

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:16-17)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

25

I AM LOVED

By God:

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

26

I AM LOVED

By the Church:

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

27

I AM CHOSEN

even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, (Ephesians 1:4-5)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

28

I AM CALLED & SENT

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

(1 Peter 2:9)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

29

I AM EMPOWERED

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

(1 John 5:4-5)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

30

I AM SECURE

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:38-39)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

31

I AM FORGIVEN

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

(1 Corinthians 6:11)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

32

I AM FLOURISHING (BLESSED)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

(Matthew 5:3-11)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

33

I AM FLOURISHING (BLESSED)

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

(Matthew 5:3-11)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

34

I AM FLOURISHING (BLESSED)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

(Matthew 5:3-11)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

35

I AM WORTHY

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

(Genesis 1:26-27)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

36

I AM ALIVE WITH CHRIST

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
(John 10:10)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

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IMPLICATIONS OF "I AM FLOURISHING"

- I am not ruled by my circumstances
- I can always be joyful
- I can always come to God for rest
- My actions have purpose in telling the story of God and demonstrating faith
- Eternity with God is my ultimate reality

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

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At your table, read through the passages, and fill out the implications for your assigned identity.

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

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NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS

"I AM NOT FLOURISHING"

- I am ruled by my circumstances
- Joy is something I need to create for myself
- Rest is fragile and elusive
- My actions only have purpose if they "succeed"
- The world around me is my ultimate reality

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

40

What are the opposites of the implications you just listed?

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

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NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR

"I AM NOT FLOURISHING"

- My well-being is controlled by my perception of reality
- My emotions can fluctuate drastically based on what is happening in my life
- I feel restless, and constantly struggle to control the world around me
- When life is difficult, I question God's goodness and wonder why I should keep doing good
- I am most concerned with doing what is right in my own eyes today

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

42

Keep working through your assigned Identity - How would your life look if you did not believe your identity was true?

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

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HOW DO WE APPLY THIS KNOWLEDGE TO LEADING SMALL GROUPS?

- Look for the fruit of unbelief in recurring problems, and take them to Scripture

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

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HOW DO WE APPLY THIS KNOWLEDGE TO LEADING SMALL GROUPS?

- Encourage action based on our New Identity

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

45

HOW DO WE APPLY THIS KNOWLEDGE TO LEADING SMALL GROUPS?

- Know your Bible, and point people to truth

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

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HOW DO WE APPLY THIS KNOWLEDGE TO LEADING SMALL GROUPS?

- Understand your members identify more strongly with different identities

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

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HOW DO WE APPLY THIS KNOWLEDGE TO LEADING SMALL GROUPS?

- Ask questions to see where else they're looking to get their needs filled. (What are you trying to accomplish w/ that sin?)

YOU ARE MADE NEW IN CHRIST

48

LUNCH BREAK

49

STEP INTO MISSION

50

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH?

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
(Matthew 28:16-20)

STEP INTO MISSION

51

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH?

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
(Matthew 28:16-20)

STEP INTO MISSION

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What role do Small Groups play in accomplishing the church's mission?

STEP INTO MISSION

53

WHAT ROLE DO SMALL GROUPS PLAY IN ACCOMPLISHING THE CHURCH'S MISSION?

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

(Ephesians 4:15-16)

STEP INTO MISSION

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HOW DO SMALL GROUPS MAKE NEW DISCIPLES TOGETHER?

- Distributive Model
 - Invite your networks into your Christian community.
- Focused Model
 - Find a need and meet it.

STEP INTO MISSION

55

What has your Small Group done to make new disciples?

How has it gone?

What might it look like this year?

STEP INTO MISSION

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**EXPECTATIONS,
RESOURCES
& NEXT STEPS:**



SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP AT HARVEST



REQUIREMENTS

- Commitment to the group
- Openness to the Holy Spirit's work in your life
- Openness to the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of others
- Openness to the Holy Spirit's work in the world

EXPECTATIONS

• To be a part of a small group is to be a part of a community of faith. It is to be a part of a community of people who are committed to the Holy Spirit's work in their lives and in the lives of others.

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RESOURCES

- Bible
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Giving
- Serving
- Witnessing





SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP AT HARVEST



EXPECTATIONS, RESOURCES & NEXT STEPS:

- **Leader Sync Dates:**
 - **October 25**
 - **January 31**
 - **April 25**
 - **Leader Celebrations:**
 - **Christmas Party - December 4 or 5**
 - **End of Year Celebration - June 19**
- EXPECTATIONS, RESOURCES & NEXT STEPS:**

**What topics would be helpful in
Leader Syncs?**

EXPECTATIONS, RESOURCES & NEXT STEPS:

PRAY FOR LAUNCH

- Pray for New Members
- Pray for Displaced Members
- Pray for the Purpose to be Fulfilled
- Pray over Personal Concerns

STEP INTO MISSION

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