

The Journey Church

Growth Group Leader Training



Summer 2018
(Teacher Notes)

Summer 2018 Growth Groups Important Dates

Sunday, June 3rd	God on Film Teaching Kick-Off
Monday, June 11th	Growth Groups Begin
July 9th to July 14th	Growth Group Servant Evangelism Week
Saturday, July 28th	Journey Beach Baptism
Saturday, August 25th	Summer Growth Groups End

Growth Group Semester System Overview

Spring Semester	Summer Semester	Fall Semester
January – April	May – August	September – December

Growth Groups @ The Journey

The Journey exists to give the people of New York City the best opportunity to become fully developing followers of Jesus.

CORE BELIEF: At The Journey, we believe our church must...

grow LARGER and SMALLER at the same time.

As a result, The Journey has 2 types of church meetings:

Large Group: Sunday Service

Small Group: Growth Group

*“They **worshiped together** at the Temple each day, **met in homes** for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity – all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.”*

– Acts 2:46-47

How Does My Growth Group “WIN”?

My Growth Group “WINS” when together we
apply God’s biblical principles to our lives and
pray for one another.

*“You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the **hard work** of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.” – James 3:18*

The Journey
Summer 2018 Growth Groups
Growth Group Responsibilities

WHAT DOES MY GROWTH GROUP DO?

- Meets together once a week
- Serves together once a month
- Reaches out together once a semester
- Hangs together once a semester

WHAT DOES A GROWTH GROUP LEADER DO?

- Prays for group members daily
- Leads the group once a week
- Meets with Team Leader in a Growth Group Huddle at least once a semester
- Helps form new groups from their current group

WHAT DOES A GROWTH GROUP COORDINATOR DO?

- Prepares to become a Growth Group Leader by serving as an apprentice who supports and assists the Group Leader
- Facilitates group discussion multiple times during the semester
- Prays for the group

Each week the Coordinator sends 2 emails to the group:

- 1. Prayer Requests - Sent the day after group meets; email with prayer requests from previous day (recorded by coordinator)***
- 2. Group Reminder - Sent two days before group meets; email with reminder about Growth Group that week (or any upcoming events - GG Serving, GG Hangout, etc.)***

Four F's of Leading a Growth Group

1. **FILL-UP**

Who can I invite to be a part of my Growth Group?

- People in previous Growth Groups
- People I meet on Sunday
- People I meet when I'm serving
- People I meet at a Journey events

How do I tell people about my Growth Group?

- Serve at the Growth Group Table & hold up a sign on Sundays.
- Ask people who you meet on Sunday at the service to join your group.
- Email people who were in your previous Growth Group(s) and invite them to join.

What are other ways my group can fill up and be successful?

- People select a group because of its location, day, time and topic (in that order)
- Secure a Growth Group Coordinator for your Group

List 4 people you can invite to join your Growth Group:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 3. |
| 2. | 4. |

***Challenge: ASK SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT GO TO THE JOURNEY TO JOIN YOUR GROUP**

2. FOLLOW-UP

How do people sign up for my Growth group?

- **Sunday Signups:** From the services and the Growth Group Table are sent to you on Mondays.
- **Online Signups:** You receive an immediate email.

Three types of communication...

1. IMMEDIATE FOLLOW-UP

- As soon as someone signs up, email them all the details for your Growth Group.
Sample Email Provided
- Within a few days of someone signing up, text call them to introduce yourself and try to meet them on Sunday.

2. PRE-GROUP COMMUNICATION

- Call/text your Group Members the week of your first meeting
- Two email reminders before the first meeting
 - One 1 Week before
 - One 1 Day before

3. ON-GOING COMMUNICATION

- Two weekly emails
 - Meeting reminder (2 days before meeting)
 - Prayer requests (day after meeting)

***Challenge: DON'T LET ANYONE SLIP THROUGH THE CRACKS.**

3. **FOCUS**

How can I prepare for my first Growth Group Meeting?

- **Pray for your group and the individuals who sign up**
 - When someone signs-up, immediately add them to your Growth Group list (keep an excel file with everyone's contact information).
 - Keep a 3" x 5" index card or a note on your phone with the names of everyone who signs up for your Growth Group.
 - Place this index card in a place that you will see everyday OR make that note the background of your phone and pray for your Growth Group members.

- **Have a plan for your lesson and a place for your group to meet**
 - Think through your itinerary (1st Group Meeting Itinerary)
 - Secure a meeting location NOW and let everyone know about it immediately. (including Journey staff)

- **Lead your group through the Growth Group Covenant & Syllabus at your first meeting.**
 - Growth Group Covenant
 - Share the Syllabus with your Group
*Sample Email Provided

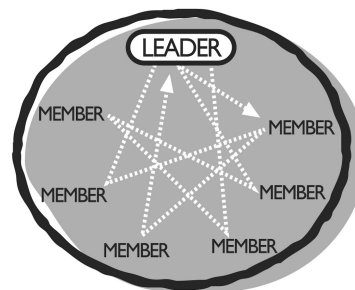
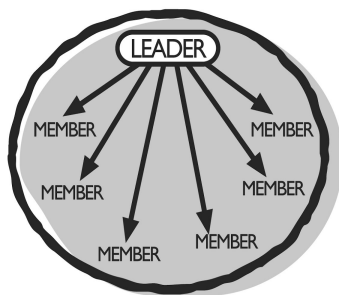
***Challenge: PRAY DAILY FOR YOUR GROWTH GROUP MEMBERS.**

4. FACILITATE

How can I lead a successful Growth Group?

- Begin and end on time every time
- Encourage everyone to participate in discussion

Ping Pong Ball vs. Pinball Machine



- Don't let one person ruin it for everyone else
- Ask open-ended questions
- Provide the "2 C's" –
 - **Care** to Growth Group members
 - **Communication** to Staff
- Serve at a Sunday service once a month this Summer
- Participate in one Growth Group SE project this Summer

***Challenge: BE PRESENT AT ALL YOUR GG'S SERVING OPPORTUNITIES**

Four F's Checklist:

FILL-UP CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Secure a Coordinator for your Growth Group.
- ☐ Serve at the GG Table and ask people on Sunday to join my group.
- ☐ Invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join my group.

FOLLOW-UP CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Email every person who signs up for my group immediately with all of the important information: day/time/location, start date, syllabus, contact info, etc.
- ☐ Call/text everyone who signs up for my group at least once before the group begins.
- ☐ Send an email reminder two days before my group begins.
- ☐ Continue following up with those who don't show up for Growth Group at least 2 weeks into the group (don't remove their name from the list until they request it).

FOCUS CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Pray daily for those who have signed up for my group.
- ☐ Secure a place for my group to meet.
- ☐ Have the Syllabus and GG Covenant ready at the 1st group meeting.

FACILITATE CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Send 2 weekly emails to my Growth Group: Group Reminder Email (two days before group meeting) and Prayer Requests (day after group meets).
- ☐ Write down my group's Sunday serving and SE dates and communicate those dates to my group. Be faithful in leading my group to serve.
- ☐ Continually identify potential leaders from my group and give them the opportunity to serve/lead within my group.

2018 Summer Growth Groups Sunday Serving Schedule

Village

Names	Time	Date #1	Date #2	Date #3
Jeremy/Hillary/Annabell	11:00am	June 17	July 15	August 12
Katie/Alex	11:00am	June 17	July 15	August 12
Allison	11:00am	June 17	July 15	August 12
Trevor/Kayleigh Beth	1:00pm	June 17	July 15	August 12
Karen/Tony	1:00pm	June 17	July 15	August 12
Brendan	1:00pm	June 17	July 15	August 12
Rachel/Iris	6:00pm	June 17	July 15	August 12
Sophia/Taylor	6:00pm	June 17	July 15	August 12
Rachel/Allie	11:00am	June 24	July 22	August 19
Jessica	11:00am	June 24	July 22	August 19
Gina	11:00am	June 24	July 22	August 19
Lynn	1:00pm	June 24	July 22	August 19
Jose/Andy	1:00pm	June 24	July 22	August 19
Hilary/Alex	6:00pm	June 24	July 22	August 19
Roche	6:00pm	June 24	July 22	August 19
John	6:00pm	June 24	July 22	August 19
Brianna/Zach/Kallie/ Madison	11:00am	July 1	July 29	August 26
Taylor/Alistair	11:00am	July 1	July 29	August 26
Michael	11:00am	July 1	July 29	August 26
Corinna/B/Kelin	1:00pm	July 1	July 29	August 26
Reid	1:00pm	July 1	July 29	August 26
Brionna/Marie	1:00pm	July 1	July 29	August 26
Richy	6:00pm	July 1	July 29	August 26
Darah	6:00pm	July 1	July 29	August 26
Sebastian/John	6:00pm	July 1	July 29	August 26
Jeremy	11:00am	July 8	August 5	September 2
Brandon/Melinda/Brandy	11:00am	July 8	August 5	September 2
Stephen/Talib	1:00pm	July 8	August 5	September 2
Al	1:00pm	July 8	August 5	September 2
Garnet	1:00pm	July 8	August 5	September 2
Reese	6:00pm	July 8	August 5	September 2
Wayne/Star	6:00pm	July 8	August 5	September 2
Lindsay/Taylor	6:00pm	July 8	August 5	September 2

Upper West Side

Name	Date #1	Date #2	Date #3
George	June 17	July 8	August 12
Khadeen	June 17	July 15	August 12
Bobby/Patrick	June 17	July 15	August 12
Sherry	June 24	July 15	August 12
Aniella/Charissa	June 24	July 22	August 19
Julianna	June 24	July 22	August 19
Dara/Susan	July 1	July 29	August 19
Joe	July 1	July 29	August 19
Beth	July 1	August 5	August 26
Calvin	July 8	August 5	August 26
Cindy/Nicole	July 8	August 5	August 26

Upper East Side

Name	Date #1	Date #2	Date #3
Keni	June 17	July 8	August 5
Brittany/Alyssa	June 17	July 15	August 5
David	June 24	July 15	August 12
Nate/Fouad	June 24	July 22	August 12
Ismael/Silvia	July 1	July 22	August 19
Vanessa/Amanda	July 1	July 29	August 19
Nuria	July 8	August 5	August 26

2018 Summer Growth Group Servant Evangelism Schedule

Monday, July 9	
Village – 14th Street & 6th Avenue <i>(in front of Urban Outfitters)</i>	
Katie/Alex	Keni

Tuesday, July 10	
Village – 14th Street & 6th Avenue <i>(in front of Urban Outfitters)</i>	
Gina	Jose/Andy
Allison	George
Reid	Corinna/B/Kelin

Tuesday, July 10	
UWS – 96th Street & Broadway	
Jeremy	Brittany/Alyssa
David	Khadeen
Sherry	Trevor/Kayleigh Beth
Nuria	

Wednesday, July 11	
Village – 14th Street & 6th Avenue <i>(in front of Urban Outfitters)</i>	
Bobby	Rachel/Allie
Lindsay/Taylor	Brendan
Rachel/Iris	Lynn
Richy	Roche

Wednesday, July 11	
UES – 210 E 86th Street <i>(between 2nd & 3rd Avenue)</i>	
Aniella/Charissa	Karen/Tony
Ismael/Silvia	Wayne/Star
Nate/Fouad	Sophia/Taylor

Wednesday, July 11	
UWS – 96th Street & Broadway	
Julianna	Dara/Susan
Sebastian/John	Reese
Brianna/Zach/Kallie/Madison	Joe

Thursday, July 12	
Village – 14th Street & 6th Avenue <i>(in front of Urban Outfitters)</i>	
Hilary/Alex	Brandon/Melinda/Brandy
John	Brionna/Marie

Thursday, July 12	
UWS – 96th Street & Broadway	
Beth	Michael
Calvin	

Saturday, July 14	
Village – 14th Street & 6th Avenue <i>(in front of Urban Outfitters)</i>	
Vanessa/Amanda	Stephen/Talib
Darah	Al
Cindy/Nicole	Garnet
Taylor/Alistair	

The Journey

Summer 2018 Growth Groups

Itinerary for Your 1st Growth Group Meeting

1. **First 15 Minutes:** Allow people to arrive, talk, and snack – 15 min.
2. **Introductions:** Have everyone introduce themselves and share what they do, where they are from, and why they decided to join the group – 10 min.
3. **Ice Breakers (See some favorite ideas below):**
 - a. *2 Truths and a Lie:* Have everyone tell 3 things about themselves (2 being true and 1 being false). Have everyone else try to guess which one is false.
 - b. *A Penny for Your Thoughts:* Bring a small bag of pennies from a variety of years to growth group. Everyone takes a penny as they pass the bag around, and they share a fond memory from the year that they chose. Have members put their penny back if they choose a year that they didn't live through. If you don't have many pennies, any other coins will do.
 - c. *Little Known Facts:* Ask each person in the group to think of two interesting, unusual, or humorous facts about themselves that no one else would know. Everyone takes a turn sharing their little known facts with the group. Be prepared for some wacky revelations!
 - d. *The Name Game:* Tell the story behind your name – are you named after someone, does your name mean something special, etc.
4. **Introduce your Growth Group study:** Hand out **GG syllabus, bookmarks** and any other important information. Answer any questions – 5-10 minutes.
5. **Growth Group Covenant:** Read through the Growth Group Covenant carefully with the group. Explain the points as you read each one. Answer any questions. If anyone tries to be difficult or disagreeable, offer to talk with them individually at the end of the meeting – 10-15 min.
6. **Explain and ask for volunteers for the different roles within the group:** Playgroup Coordinator, Food Coordinator, etc. – 5 minutes.
7. **Share prayer requests and pray together** – 10 minutes.
8. **Talk and eat** – 15 minutes.

Sample Follow-up Email

To: Everyone who signs up for your group
Subject: Welcome to Our Growth Group!

Hey Matt!

My name is Bobby and I'll be leading our Summer Growth Group this semester - I just wanted to introduce myself and thank you for signing up! I also wanted to give you all of the important information you'll need:

When: Wednesdays at 7:00am (*First group is June 13th*)

Where: Midtown - Gregory's Coffee (*8th Ave. between 37th/36th*)

Book: *Wild at Heart*, by John Eldredge. [Buy it on amazon here!](#)

Feel free to invite and encourage your friends to sign up for your group and attend on Sunday. You can send them this link to make it easy:

<https://journeynyc.com/growth-groups-at-the-journey-2/wednesday-01/>

I'm really looking forward to our Growth Group and I hope you are as well! Reply to this email and let me know if you'll be at our first meeting.

Let me know if you have any other questions!

Bobby

Sample Syllabus

Summer 2018 Growth Group “Too Busy Not To Pray”

Welcome to your Summer 2018 Growth Group. Our group will meet every Wednesday @ 7PM beginning Wednesday, June 14 through Wednesday, August 23.

We are reading the book “Too Busy Not To Pray” by Bill Hybels. As we read this book, it is my prayer that we will set aside to speak to God daily. We will also spend half of our growth group meeting time to pray as a body of Christ.

GG Week # 1: Wednesday, June 14: Introductions, Group Orientation, Growth Group Covenants

GG Week # 2: Wednesday, June 21: Discuss Chapters 1 & 2 – *God’s Presence, God’s Power & God Is Willing*

GG Week # 3: Wednesday, June 29: Discuss Chapter 3 & 4 – *God Is Able & Heart-Building Habits*

GG Week # 4: Wednesday, July 5: Discuss Chapters 5 & 6 – *Praying Like Jesus & A Patter for Prayer*

GG Week # 5: Wednesday, July 12: ****This is Growth Group SE week****

GG Week # 6: Wednesday, July 19: Discuss Chapters 7 & 8 – *Mountain-Moving Prayer & The Hurt of Unanswered Prayer*

GG Week # 7: Wednesday, July 26: Discuss Chapters 9 & 10 – *Prayer Busters & Cooling Off on Prayer*

GG Week # 8: Wednesday, August 2: Discuss Chapters 11 & 12 – *Slowing Down to Pray & The Importance of Listening*

GG Week # 9: Wednesday, August 9: Discuss Chapters 13 & 14– *How to Hear God’s Leadings & What to Do with Leadings*

GG Week # 10: Wednesday, August 16: Discuss Chapter 15 – *Living in God’s Presence*

GG Week # 11: Wednesday, August 23: Growth Group Play Group

****Every Growth Group is assigned service opportunities during the semester.***

SERVING ON SUNDAY DATES:

SERVANT EVANGELISM DATE:

GG PLAY GROUP DATE:

The Journey Summer 2018 Growth Group Covenant

Welcome to your **Summer 2018 Growth Group** at The Journey. Congratulations on your desire to grow deeper in your relationship with God through this weekly study and the relationships that will begin in this Growth Group.

As a member of this group, you will be asked to enter into a covenant with the other members to make this Growth Group a priority. To be a part of the group, you are asked to make the following commitments:

1. I will make this group a priority by attending each week, keeping up with my assignments, and participating in group discussion.
2. I will regularly attend The Journey services and contribute to the ministry of the church through my attendance, giving, service, and inviting of others.
3. I will strive to build authentic relationships with those in this group by showing care, providing encouragement and praying for their needs.
4. I will intentionally share my faith with those around me by reaching out to lost and unchurched friends by praying, giving a verbal witness, and inviting them to The Journey.
5. I will serve together with my group once a month during the semester and will participate in a Servant Evangelism Project and play together with my group at least once.
6. I will explore honestly my next steps for spiritual growth.

Sign Your Name

Date

Print Your Name

The Journey Summer 2018

Growth Group Leader/Coordinator Covenant

Thank you for serving as a Growth Group Leader/Coordinator at The Journey. As a Growth Group Leader/Coordinator you will be viewed by those in your group as a leader in the church. As a result, we ask that you enter into covenant with the other Growth Group Leaders/Coordinators by making the following commitments:

1. I will embody and reflect the values and principles of The Journey and will follow the leadership of the staff team.
2. I will faithfully attend The Journey on Sundays and:
 - Participate in the church by becoming a member and giving in a measurable way.
 - Leading my group in serving together once a month.
3. I will make my Growth Group a priority by:
 - Faithfully attending my Growth Group.
 - Preparing beforehand for my group each week.
 - Inviting/welcoming others to join my group.
 - Identifying new leaders in my Growth Group.
4. I understand that I am responsible for the care of my Growth Group. As a result, I will:
 - Pray for the individuals in my group.
 - Follow up with each person in my group.
 - Lead my group in providing care for one another.
5. I will strive to create an environment of growth in my group by:
 - Involving as many people as possible in group discussion.
 - Creating a safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment.
 - Beginning and ending on time.
6. I will intentionally share my faith with those around me by:
 - Reaching out to lost and unchurched friends and inviting them to The Journey.
 - Encouraging my Growth Group members to reach out to lost and unchurched friends and inviting them to The Journey.

Sign Your Name

Date

Print Your Name