

7 Action Items for Fall Success

Here are 7 action items to consider doing, implementing, and emphasizing this fall.

1. Read your Play Book

The Small Group Leader Play Book is worth your time to read cover to cover. You can also find specific topics and ideas for leading meaningful prayer, accountability, large group discussions, and a step-by-step set of instructions for getting ready to multiply.

2. Watch the Small Group "3 Minute Training" Videos

Videos can be found at vimeo.com/HBCSsmallgroups and new ones also get sent out in the Small Group Newsletter. These are brief, valuable videos for things to remember as leaders, announcements of upcoming events, reasons we do things the way we do at Harvest, and "how to" tools for effective leadership.

3. Talk with your group about your group

Be intentional to make sure your group knows the purpose of the group and why we do things the way we do. Enthusiastically remind your group that *you are a multiplying small group*.

4. Download the Group Me App

Group Me is a valuable follow up and communication tool to promote ongoing connection or announcements with the group throughout the week. Everyone in the group will need it in order to use it effectively.

5. Pray for your Leader In Training

Don't have one in mind yet? Pray that you get one. Think you have one? Pray and then tell them you think they'd make a great leader.

6. Press for a Culture of Invitation with your group

Your group will (generally) be as inviting and open of new folks as you lead them to be. Remind them growth is good and more people need to be discipled for God's glory!

7. Make sure Accountability is done out of earshot

In order to reduce distraction and increase vulnerable, open sharing, do accountability time where you can't hear the other group. Don't have a room in the house to do this? Men, do the chivalrous thing and go outside or even use the garage 😊

Principles of Dealing with Suffering People

By Jim Sheridan

The following 10 principles are derived from John 11 and are guiding principles in how to help and serve people when they are going through suffering.

1. We should feel honored when suffering families request our support. (Jn 11:1-3).
2. We need to pray that God's timing is best for our visit to suffering families (Jn 11:4-6).
3. We still have an important purpose in visiting suffering families even after the family member has died. (Jn 11:17-19).
4. It is normal to question why this has happened here and now (Jn 11:21a).
5. Christians may blame Jesus for not meeting their personal expectation when a loved one has passed (Jn 11: 21b).
6. Christians still cling to the assurance that Jesus can help them even though they are not sure how that will happen (Jn 11:22).
7. When spiritual discussion is brought up, people need biblical words for support (Jn 11:23-26a).
8. It is important to help suffering people articulate their Christian beliefs when appropriate even as they are suffering (Jn 11:26b-27).
9. Give each person in the suffering family the opportunity to express their feelings (Jn 11:28-31).
10. When supporting grieving families, people need emotional support. (Jn 11:32-37).