



# GROUP LEADER DESCRIPTION

2025-2026

## ARE YOU READY TO LEAD?

Thank you for your interest in being a Group Leader!

It's people like you who are helping Immanuel Church become a church family of **“Everyday Disciples Making Disciples Every Day!”**

We believe that all who follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior are not only disciples, but also disciple makers. As such, it's important to know what we are **CALLED**, **COMMITTED**, and **COMMISSIONED** to as disciple makers! We are

**CALLED** to live a GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE as we

- embrace the Good News of what Jesus has done, is doing and will do for us one day
- live in the transformational power of the Holy Spirit as He helps us apply the Gospel to our lives every day
- obey the Great Commandment to **LOVE GOD** and **LOVE PEOPLE** (Matthew 22:36-40)
- partner with God in fulfilling the great Commission to **MAKE DISCIPLES** of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8)

**COMMITTED** to not only learn what Jesus taught, but do what Jesus did. Like Jesus, we

- **LOVE GOD** by practicing the spiritual disciplines
- **LOVE PEOPLE** by sharing the Gospel and living out the “one another” of Scripture
- **MAKE DISCIPLES** by entering into **INTENTIONAL RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP** with one another.

**COMMISSIONED** to help those in our church, communities and world live the **GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE** Jesus calls us to by helping each other

- **KNOW RIGHT** about the Gospel and truth of Scripture
- **THINK RIGHT** about God, ourselves, others and the world we live in
- **DO RIGHT** by living in obedience to Scripture and applying the truth of the Gospel to our everyday lives
- **FEEL RIGHT** by experiencing the joy of a transformed life through the Gospel.

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Groups are great environments where this kind of life-on-life, **INTENTIONAL RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP** happens. Groups typically meet weekly (with various rhythms for breaks) and are centered around seven key elements.

- **RELATIONSHIPS** - Jesus showed us that disciple making is the development of relationships motivated by Jesus-modeled love. It's within the context of authentic relationships with one another that the Gospel is able to take root, grow and produce much fruit!
- **JESUS** - Jesus drew people to himself. Jesus is our greatest joy. The mission of Jesus is to give himself in love for the sake of others so that people would know Him, treasure Him, and promote Him and His message to others. We not only learn what Jesus taught, but we do what Jesus did.
- **THE HOLY SPIRIT** - Jesus' life and ministry are fueled by the Holy Spirit and He must fuel ours. The Holy Spirit is who empowers us to live in obedience to Christ as we apply the Gospel to our lives.
- **THE BIBLE** - The Gospel and the truth of Scripture are the foundation of Jesus' ministry and is sufficient for discipleship development. Other resources and curriculum can be and are used, but the Bible is our ultimate source of truth.
- **INTENTIONALITY** - Jesus taught, guided and modeled for His disciples and released them to disciple others as HE disciplined them. Our discipleship of others must be rooted in that same intentionality.
- **JOURNEY** - Jesus led His disciples on a journey, inviting them to learn by walking with him. Likewise, we give people space and grace to grow over time knowing that becoming like Jesus is a process over time.
- **MULTIPLICATION** - Jesus taught us to make disciples who make disciples until He returns. Our goal is to equip all believers to become spiritual parents and grandparents who are effectively multiplying disciple makers.



# ROLE OF A GROUP LEADER:

Group Leaders are the primary shepherds/disciplers of their group members and embrace Jesus' model of **INTENTIONAL RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP**. They are responsible for providing spiritual leadership and care for their group members. Their goal is to make disciple-makers who make disciple-makers. They are successful when they personally demonstrate an increasing love for God and people, and when they and those they lead are actively becoming multiplying disciple-makers.

## QUALIFICATIONS

## EXPECTATIONS

- Have a personal, growing relationship with Jesus Christ
- Recognize the Bible as the authority for their lives
- Be a member of Immanuel Church (or commit to pursuing membership if not already a member), living in line with the Immanuel Membership Covenant
- Have Group experience (preferably)
- Have the time, emotional capacity and spiritual discernment to lead a group for either a one-year commitment (most groups starting in the fall) or a semester commitment (most groups starting in the winter or spring)

- Lead the group by modeling what it looks like to put God first in your life and prioritizing the discipleship of the members of your group
- Prior to the group meeting, be prepared by:
  - understanding the material to be covered and questions to be discussed
  - spending time praying for your group time
- Connect with individual group members outside of group time as needed to help them take their next steps in their discipleship journeys
- Prioritize and participate in Group Leader Gatherings (see schedule)
- Identify and develop a qualified apprentice and/or the leadership abilities of group members
- Sign up for and connect with your Group Leader Shepherd each month (optional, but encouraged)