

Leader Essentials

Tips for Leading Well

In leading groups, we have discovered several key essentials to creating the optimum group environment for God to work in.



Stay Connected

- This essential reminds us to stay spiritually nourished.
- In John 15, Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine and branches to instruct his follower to “abide”. When we stay connected to Jesus in this way, we welcome God’s work in us and through us.
- As the leader, we can’t expect something from our group members we’re not doing ourselves.
- *Are you staying rooted in your relationship with Jesus Christ, realizing that apart from him you can do nothing?*

Cultivate Relationships

- This essential is focused on how we build community.
- By encouraging and facilitating connections outside of regular group meetings, you demonstrate the priority of relationships. This might include a group text, email string, or separate accountability groups between men/women.
- *How are you and your group members connecting outside of group time?*

Promote Participation

- This essential focuses on how you involve your group members.
- Shared participation (facilitating the study, hosting the meeting, preparing the snack, leading prayer time, planning socials, guiding the curriculum-choice decisions, etc.) creates broader ownership of the group.
- Follow up with absent group members. If everyone can’t make it, continue to meet with those who can.
- *How are you involving your group members in supporting the group?*

Serve Together

- This essential expands the focus of the group beyond itself.
- Serving those outside of the group is a great way to leverage the influence of the group while strengthening the relationships within the group.
- *Is service a consistent part of your group experience?*



Celebrate Change

- This essential helps us stay focused on the purpose of the group.
- If we truly value the life change God brings about in people, it is important that we take the time to celebrate it in our groups.
- *How do you and your group members celebrate the growth you see occurring in each other?*

Provide Care

- This essential focuses on the big and small ways we can provide care.
- Often people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.
- You may find another person in your group is better at providing care. Look for ways to include them.
- *Do you make it a priority for your group to support and care for each other?*

Replace Yourself

- This essential challenges us to prepare others for leadership.
- By passing on knowledge, skills, and opportunities, you are preparing others for future leadership while sharpening your own.
- *How are you intentionally investing in a potential leader in your group?*

End Well

- This essential prepares us to transition our groups well.
- As all groups have a natural life cycle, leaders must work with their group members to craft a picture of a strong finish.
- All groups end. Whether it's a missional change, someone moves, or you add a new person, nothing is forever. Helping your group through this from the onset can be a difference maker.
- *How are you planning today for a successful end to your current group?*

