

## **iCommunity Small Groups**

### **Guidelines for Leading a Small Group**

Leaders and co-leaders should follow these guidelines to maintain the group's integrity and prepare for each session. Always remember the purpose of the small group is to facilitate through the approved curriculum and the Word of God. Inspire through mentorship by building community and group dynamics. Through our small groups, we will Equip those participants to have a stronger relationship with Christ and Kingdom building for Community relationships.

#### **Leaders:**

Each small group will have a Leader and at least one Co-leader. Ideally, the maximum number of participants should be 14. There should be at least two Co-leaders with ten or more participants.

The responsibility of the Leader is to ensure that all Co-leaders and participants are actively engaging in the sessions and have completed the curriculum assignments. The Leader will be in weekly contact with the Equipping Pastors regarding the status of the small group and for any assistance needed. The Leader will assign the Co-leader(s) a group facilitating schedule. The Leaders will have weekly follow-up sessions with one another to discuss any issues that may occur during sessions.

#### **Role of Leaders/Co-Leaders in Church Group Dynamics:**

1. **Encouraging Spiritual Participation:** Leaders/Co-Leaders promote active engagement in discussions, prayers, and spiritual activities within the group.
2. **Navigating Scriptural Discussions:** They guide the group through discussions about scripture, allowing members to share their interpretations and insights.
3. **Building Community:** Leaders/Co-Leaders help create community by fostering connections and relationships among church members.
4. **Managing Spiritual Conflicts:** In the event of differing interpretations or spiritual conflicts, facilitators navigate discussions toward resolution and understanding.

Remember that we are leading small groups, so we must stress the importance of personal study before arriving at our designated times. We must also look at the small groups as a discipleship or mentorship. We must check in with the participants weekly; it is essential to building our small groups. Build deeper friendships by planning outside activities with different individuals by having meals, fun activities, or projects around each other homes.

#### **Preparation For Leading Small Group:**

##### **Prayerfully Prepare**

1. Review your weekly material and any discussion questions for the group.
2. Pray for your group and be intentional in your prayer for each person. Make sure to be sensitive to guidance from the Holy Spirit.

**Managing Spiritual Conflicts:** We want to make sure that we have a safe and comfortable environment. If you're going to have dinner or snacks available, please prepare 30 minutes before the session to avoid distractions. Distractions can also be seating needs, such as more chairs, temperature, lighting, surrounding noise, and general cleanliness.

**Building Community:** Our small group goal is to foster a community. Remember that everyone attending our groups may not be a church member. We want to encourage spiritual growth, connect to our church community, and invite others to join the group.

**Encouraging Spiritual Participation:**

Everyone participates. Encourage everyone to ask questions and share responses. Please remember to ask participants if they are willing to read.

**No One Dominates-Not Even the Leaders/Co-Leaders:**

Remember as a Leader/Co-Leader that this is a more than 1-way conversation. We are not teaching but facilitating. We should refrain from dominating the conversation as well as the participants.

**Input is Affirmed and Followed Up:**

Remember to affirm that verbiage gestures are essential. Make sure to point out something accurate or helpful in a response. You do not have to move on. Ask others if they have experienced something similar or how a truth has shaped them. Continue to focus on the curriculum and encourage participants not to be fearful to speak.