



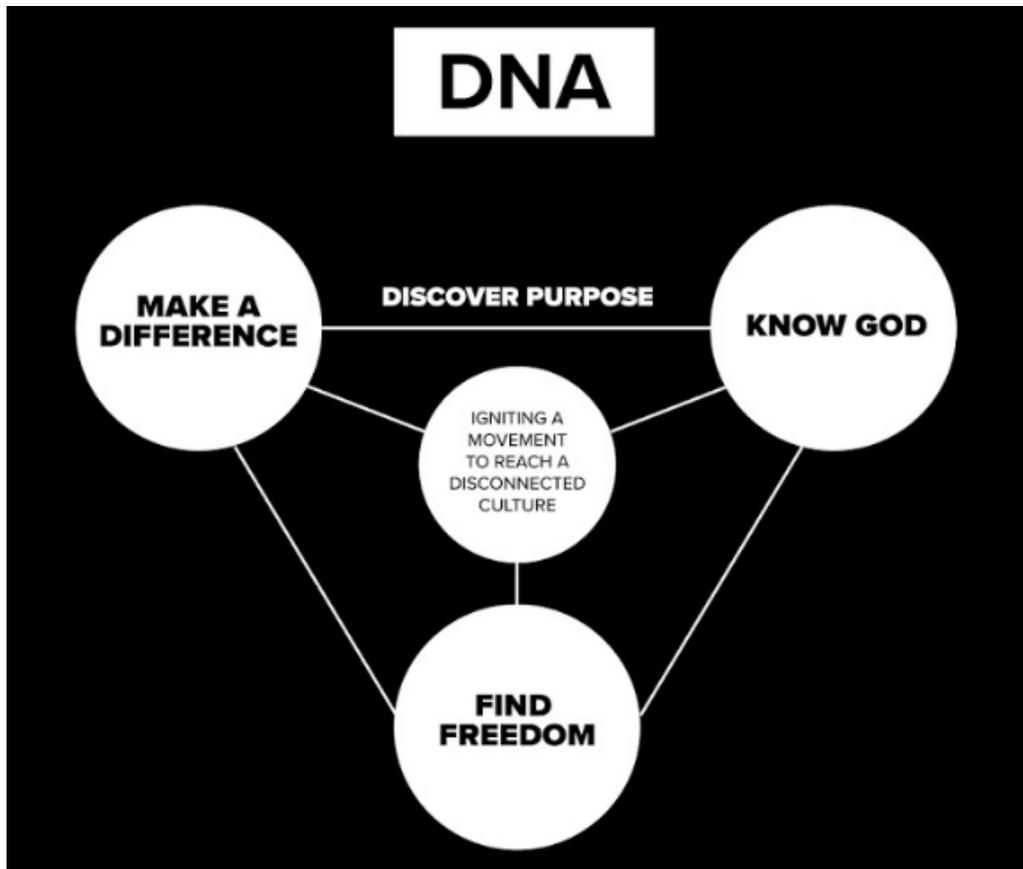
CONNECT GROUPS

LEADER TRAINING GUIDE

Your Purpose

We all have a strong desire to be fulfilled by how we spend our time and talents. Using the resources we've been blessed with, God made us to be Kingdom builders. At the end of the day, we have a God-given purpose. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." As a leader, you have an opportunity to directly impact the lives of others and fulfill a calling that God has given to all of us: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Your purpose also has a place within the DNA of One Church. As we ignite a movement to reach a disconnected culture, there are aspects of the DNA that must be met. Your role as a leader has the ability to help facilitate God's vision and drive people in your group to Know God, Find Freedom, and Make a Difference, all while Discovering Purpose.



Why be a Leader?

We all need spiritual parents. At every stage in life we need someone in our lives that can help us grow, answer questions, process through our current season of life. Groups is our way of helping our community foster providential relationships that offer a safe environment to grow in your relationship with Christ. Here are the principles of why leading is so important to developing community and building God's Kingdom.

Life is better in community

Life is better in community, together with people who genuinely and wholly care about you and are committed to helping you grow in your faith, supporting you in times of need, and celebrating your achievements.

Connection is how we grow

It's impossible to facilitate growth in our community without leaders investing in and developing people.

Leadership Matters

Being a Group Leader is a great way to develop your leadership skills in a way that also serves your purpose.

Your Group

Connect Groups have a simple purpose—to bring people together. We believe God created us to live in community with others to experience the full life He intends for us. We believe life change happens in the context of Relationships. Meaningful relationships can be hard to find, and Groups exist to make life-changing relationships relevant and accessible to you.

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken”

ACTS 5:42

We believe our church must grow larger and smaller at the same time. We grow larger to reach as many people as possible with the life-giving message of Jesus. We gather in Groups to build community and care for people. One Church is a church of Groups, not a church with Groups.

We base our Group model on the early church as described in the Bible in the book of Acts. In Acts, you can read about the tremendous growth of the first church in Jerusalem, where small group meetings in homes helped lay the foundation.

“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.”

Groups should be:

A place to connect

We were not made to do life alone. God created us for community, and Small Groups provide a place to connect with others, share life, and grow in faith together

A place to protect

It is through life together that our problems become smaller, and God uses others to bring support and encouragement to our lives. Small Groups become a place where others don't just know your name, but care about what is happening in your life and want to support you in your spiritual journey

A place to grow

We believe every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. Small Groups are a place you can grow with others to become more like Jesus and reach the potential God has put inside you.

Types of Groups

Mens and Womens Groups

Co-Ed Groups

Family & Couples Groups

Kids and Youth Groups

Care Groups

Finding community can often mean finding people who can partner with you in your time of need, your time of growth or your time of struggle. Care Groups are specifically designed to help you find relationships through your hurts, habits, and hangups.

Wednesday Night Open Groups

This will be a time for community, worship, and prayer. We will learn more about prayer and also pray together in groups.

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Here's what a Community Group looks like

At One Church, we use a free market approach to Groups. This means we want people to gather together based on the things they enjoy and are important to them. Essentially, the things you are already doing in your life are the things that can make up your Group!

Free market leaders form their group around their gifts or interests. From sports groups to lunch groups, mom groups to student groups, Bible study groups to creative arts groups, our groups are as varied as we are.

2018

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

 Leader Training Events

 Semesters (In-Session)

Structure

Connect Groups meet throughout the year in 3 semesters. Groups meet weekly during each semester, they also have the freedom to customize the schedule to best match their lives (every other week, take the summer off, etc), the goal is to create a lasting consistent group in whichever way works best for you.. Groups meet in a variety of places like homes, parks, restaurants, coffee shops and office buildings. New groups start every semester making it easy to build community and enjoy different types of group.

No matter what your group meets about, each meeting should be made up of four things:

1. Casual Fellowship

Laid back time for group members to talk and get to know each other.

2. Activity or Discussion

This will vary based on what kind of group you're leading. It could be an activity like Frisbee or outreach or a discussion about a book or Sunday message.

3. Prayer

Ask for prayer requests from group members and pray at the beginning and/or the end of each group meeting.

4. Spiritual Component

This is what differentiates your Small Group from your neighborhood supper club. Whether it's through activities or discussion, always find a way to include the Word of God. This can be as simple as sharing something God is teaching you with the group or talking about a verse you read that week

Your Role

God has a part for all of us to play in the church, and Group Leaders come alongside the pastors and staff of One Church to help care for people. The primary role of a Small Group Leader is to help group members move one step in their walk with God.

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EPHESIANS 4:11-13 NLT

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.”

How to be a successful Small Group Leader

- Pray daily for the members of your group
- Consider partnering with a co-leader to help share the responsibility of caring for and leading your group
- Connect with group members outside of weekly meetings through phone, email, text, social media, or face-to-face. Encourage group members to connect with each other throughout the week as well
- Have fun through laughter and by creating an enjoyable environment
- Respect people’s time by beginning and ending your group on time.
- Invite group members to attend church services and events with you
- Rally the group around a member going through a crisis. Use wisdom and be sensitive

Discipleship Matrix

	BABY (OBEY)	TEEN (SACRIFICE)	ADULT (REPRODUCE)	
	I N V I T A T I O N			MATTHEW 4
	I N F O R M A T I O N			MATTHEW 5-7
	I M I T A T I O N			MATTHEW 8 - 9
	I N N O V A T I O N			MATTHEW 10

We never come to a place where we have “arrived.” Instead, we are in a constant state of growing and learning. Use this matrix to define where your leaders are in their growth and identify steps to help them grow. Each growth stage (Baby, Teen, Adult) has its own unique Invitation, Information, Imitation and Innovation steps. This matrix will help you identify and address where your leaders are so you can equip them.

Your Coach

As a Group Leader, you are never alone in creating community. We have pastors, staff, and the Groups Leadership Team who are all working alongside you to invest in great Groups at One Church. In addition, you have a Coach paired with you to help as you need support throughout the semester. Your Coach’s number one priority is to pray for you daily. Reach out to your Coach if you have a need, prayer request, or concern

Your Approach

At this point, you are free to approach coaching your leaders how you see fit. The reason that we do not spell out how many times a week you need to call or see a leader is that we expect you to evaluate and make the best decision. You know what is needed to coach your leaders, following the guideposts outlined above.

So go forth and build the kingdom!

Your Resources

How to create good group dynamics

Set expectations

A key to helping people feel comfortable in your group is to let them know what to expect. Take time to share how the group will flow from week to week. This can include things like explaining the times you will begin and end the group, how discussion or group activities will happen, and how group members can share prayer requests or best engage in the group.

Follow the 70-30 rule

Give the members of your group room to speak up instead of doing all the talking yourself. About 70% of talking should come from members and 30% from the leader.

Keep discussion positive

If conversation takes a negative or destructive turn, guide it back to a healthy place. If someone needs to talk about a sensitive or complex issue, you can follow up with them after the group or call your coach to help you respond well.

Keep the conversation relevant to everyone

Remember people in your group will be at different places in their spiritual journey. Be thoughtful when you talk about spiritual concepts or church terms that might be unfamiliar to new Christians or new church-goers.

Respect boundaries

Men should minister to men and women should minister to women. A couple may minister to a single person. We want to maintain integrity and purity in our Small Groups. These boundaries will help protect the leaders and group members from entering into an uncomfortable or inappropriate situation.

How to start your small group

1. Ask God for direction about what group to lead and who to invite.
2. Go to <https://www.one.church/groupleaders> and fill out an application
3. Meet with a Groups Team Leader
4. Decide on a topic or activity for your group, choose a place and time to meet.
5. Register your group in the online Groups Directory at One.Church so people can find it and contact you to attend. (See next section)
6. Invite people you know or meet to come check out your group. **As you start your group you should be prepared to follow up several times with several different sources (email, text and even phone calls) to make sure people know all the details and are comfortable coming!**
7. Pray for God to do great things through your Group.

Register your group

This may not seem like a big deal but registering your group is one of the most important items you will do when getting started. No one would start a new company today and not build a website to communicate and engage their customers. Same rule applies here.

Follow these high level steps to get registered to the site:

1. Go to One.Church and scroll down the page. Click on Connect Groups.
2. Scroll down the page until you see “Find a Group” or “Find your perfect fit” Click on Browse
3. This is Planning Center - Click on Login and follow the instructions

Registering your new Group:

1. A Groups Team Leader will set you up as a new leader through the application process.
2. Once your Connect Group has been created by a team leader, you will receive an email. At this point, you can login to your group by using the directions above and fill in the rest of the necessary information before making your group "public" on the website.

Scripture References

As we help people find freedom in Groups, ministering to them through the Word of God is one of the most powerful ways to care for them. We encourage you to memorize Scriptures, which will help you when you are walking someone through a tough situation, as well as give you strength. When you pray over a Group Leader, try inserting that leader's name in the Scripture to make it more personalized.

Here is a list of powerful Scriptures that you can apply to any situation:

MARK 12:30–31 NKJV

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13 NKJV

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

PROVERBS 3:5–6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

ISAIAH 55:8–9 NLT

My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

1 JOHN 5:14–15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

ISAIAH 54:17 NKJV

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord.

EPHESIANS 6:10–28

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

ROMANS 8:28 ESV

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

EPHESIANS 2:10 NLT

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago

JEREMIAH 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

MATTHEW 5:14–16

You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

ROMANS 8:39 NLT

No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

HEBREWS 13:5–6 TLB

Stay away from the love of money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, “I will never, never fail you nor forsake you.” That is why we can say without any doubt or fear, “The Lord is my Helper, and I am not afraid of anything that mere man can do to me.”

ISAIAH 41:10 NLT

Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6–7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

JAMES 1:2–4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4–7

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

ROMANS 10:17 ESV

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

LUKE 17:5–6 TLB

One day the apostles said to the Lord, “We need more faith; tell us how to get it.” “If your faith were only the size of a mustard seed,” Jesus answered, “it would be large enough to uproot that mulberry tree over there and send it hurtling into the sea! Your command would bring immediate results!”

HEBREWS 11:1

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

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JAMES 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

PROVERBS 11:14 ESV

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

ROMANS 8:1–2 NLT

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

ISAIAH 1:18

“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13–14

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.