SMALL GROUPS

LEADER GUIDE

VISIT **MEDWAYCHURCH.ORG/LEADERCENTRAL**
FOR RESOURCES, CURRICULUM, AND MORE

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MEDWAY GROUPS
Find your people.

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OUR MISSION

Our mission is the driving force behind everything we do at Medway Church. Every individual ministry area and group shares a common purpose. As a Group Leader, we depend on you to represent the DNA of Medway Church in your group. Every group leader is encouraged to not only memorize our mission, but also to truly grasp and understand the intent behind each of the three statements.

SHARE God's Love with All People
BUILD Radical Followers of Jesus
REACH the World for Christ

OUR PLAN FOR DISCIPLESHIP

It is our hope that every individual at Medway Church follows our *Plan for Discipleship*. We believe that, as Christ followers, engaging in these five practices will dramatically improve your walk with God, your personal relationships, and your entire outlook on life.

- Attend Worship Every Week
- Read Your Bible And Pray Daily
- **Commit To A Small Group That Meets Regularly**
- Commit To A God Job And Serve Every Week
- Commit To Tithing And A Lifestyle Of Generosity

Our desire is that every person at Medway is able to find and connect with a healthy, vibrant, and accepting group of people to build relationships, grow spiritually, and serve together to make a difference in our community.

OUR GOAL FOR SMALL GROUPS

Our goal for small groups is to make disciples and raise up leaders.

3 PILLARS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

Small gatherings of followers of Christ meeting on their own, facilitated by a leader, are not a new phenomenon. In fact, in the first few hundred years of the church, these kinds of groups were pretty much the only way to experience church.

Luke describes this type of group in Acts 2:42-47, and throughout years of church history, the value of these groups hasn't changed. As a Group Leader, you are helping us provide the same healthy, leader-facilitated small groups that Luke wrote about over 2,000 years ago.

Healthy Small Groups are built on three pillars: Healthy Relationships, Spiritual Growth, and Acts of Service.

Think of a stool with three legs. If any one leg is shorter than the other—or doesn't exist at all—then the stool falls over. A healthy small group balances these three pillars throughout their time together.

Healthy Relationships (Fellowship, Connection)

In a healthy small group, meaningful relationships develop. Group members build lasting friendships and connections. Through these relationships, groups provide encouragement, accountability, and support to members.

Spiritual Growth (Learning, Discipleship)

From a brand-new Christian to seasoned leaders in the church, everyone is in the process of growing to be more of who God made them to be. By meeting together to explore Scripture and discuss faith-based topics and themes, we gain a deeper perspective on our own spiritual journey. Small groups provide a safe space for people to wrestle with questions, doubts, and struggles of faith while also celebrating hope, restoration, and acceptance.

Acts of Service (Outreach, Community Impact)

We show our love for God by serving. And serving is truly special when we have the opportunity to serve side by side with people we love. Our goal is for every small group to find opportunities to serve together regularly. A list of serving opportunities is available to help you find a project that fits your group.

GROUP VALUES

In addition to the three pillars of small groups, the values listed below should also be a part of the identity of any small group.

Authenticity
The atmosphere should encourage openness and transparency among members. This is an environment where people should feel free to be themselves.

Confidentiality
For authenticity to occur, members must be able to trust that issues discussed within the group will not be shared outside the group.

Distraction-Free
Groups should do their best to remove or avoid any distractions or anything with the potential to interrupt conversation or study.

Respect
Group members should never say anything that will embarrass or draw negative attention to their spouses, other members of the group, or other church members. Members should likewise honor ideas or opinions which may differ from their own.

Focus
Group members should take care not to engage in conversation too far away from the intended topic, or that approaches issues outside of the focus of our ministry (politics, social issues, etc.).

Care
A primary responsibility of the group is to support one another and meet one another's needs. Groups support members through prayer and through tangible means when appropriate (hospital visits, providing meals, etc.)

Multiplication
Group members recognize that one of the goals of their group is to start a new group within the life cycle of the group. This allows others in the church to experience small groups as well.

THE ROLE OF A GROUP LEADER

> *A good leader leads. A great leader grows.*
>
> **—Craig Groeschel**

Small group leaders are responsible for providing their groups with vision, direction, and support. Leaders are successful when they are personally growing in their faith and building strong relationships with the members of their groups.

Group leaders are a vital part of the overall spiritual health of our entire church, so we take very seriously both your commitment to serve in this role as well as our responsibility to empower you, develop you, and resource you to succeed.

Your leadership will create lasting life change in individuals in our church and in our community. It is only through strong, healthy relationships with other Christ-followers that lasting change occurs. When your Small Group engages in and builds long-term relationships, our church best resembles the church described in the book of Acts.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A LEADER

> *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*
>
> **2 Timothy 2:15**

A healthy and successful group leader is committed to the following…

- Growing in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Pursuing Medway's *Plan for Discipleship*
- Sharing the good news of God's love with others.
- Following and respecting the ministries, leadership, and vision of Medway Church.
- Refraining from and disallowing gossip both personally and during group meetings.
- Resolving confrontation or conflict with group members or church leaders in a healthy way.
- Refraining from drug use, abuse of alcohol, and consciously avoiding causing others to stumble in light of their actions.
- Maintaining healthy boundaries to protect their own personal, emotional, and spiritual health through various seasons or circumstances.
- Setting an example in word and deed and working to encourage the faith of others.

EXPECTATIONS OF A LEADER

Commitment

As a leader, we ask that you **commit to being present and engaged when your group meets**. The greatest difference between a healthy and unhealthy small group is the level of commitment the leader sets as an example for other members. We fully recognize that there are circumstances that might cause a leader to miss a week, but sporadic attendance from a leader can decrease momentum, trust, and negatively impact group relationships. Life gets busy for everyone, so it is vital that small group commitment is modeled from the top.

Communication

A healthy small group consists of timely communication with prospective members, two-way communication between group members, and regular communication with small group ministry leaders.

Communication with Prospective Group Members

As individuals in our church sign up for small groups, our Connection Coordinator matches them with potential groups. If they are matched with your group, you will receive their name, contact information, preferred method of contact, and any information they provided on their sign-up form. As the Group Leader, you should **contact prospective members within 72 hours** of receiving their information and invite them to your next meeting.

Communication Between Group Members

One of the best ways to facilitate strong relationships in your small group is to regularly communicate group details as the Group Leader, as well as to provide members with the opportunity to interact with one another between group meetings.

Make sure you regularly communicate date, time, and location for upcoming group meetings as well as clearly communicate cancellations or changes in time or location. Prayer requests, social outings, or service opportunities are also great subjects for group communication.

It is ultimately up to you to decide the best method of communication for your group. Whatever method you choose, make sure every group member is comfortable participating so that no one is left out.

Communication with Ministry Leaders

Our commitment is to do everything we can to set you up for success as a Group Leader. You are always welcome to contact our ministry leaders directly with any questions, comments, or concerns related to your small group.

Jason States // Discipleship & Small Groups Pastor
jstates@medwaychurch.org

Mindy States // Next Steps Admin
mstates@medwaychurch.org

Preparation

Being prepared to lead your group ahead of time is a key part of being a great Small Group Leader. Some groups engage in in-depth bible studies or book studies. Other groups hold a discussion around the weekly sermon. The key is for you as the Group Leader to come prepared and ready to lead a discussion. Prepared ice-breaker activities or conversation starters can drastically increase group participation and productivity.

Help with selecting curriculum is always available. Just ask.

Prayer

There is power in prayer. Make prayer an essential part of any group gathering. Pray for members who were not able to make it. Indicate that the time you are spending gathered together is meant to strengthen your faith as well as your relationships.

Make a habit of closing each of your gatherings by asking group members to share their prayer requests. Make it a point to regularly remind members to hold sensitive prayer requests in confidence. Building trust is one of the most difficult, but most important aspects in any small group.

Provide opportunities for others to pray or multiple members to pray freely. Be careful to avoid treating prayer as a punishment (i.e., “Steve was late, so he has to pray”) or forcing others to pray out loud when they may not be comfortable. If no one from your group is comfortable leading prayer, the responsibility falls on you as the Group Leader.

LEADING A GROUP

Set Your Meeting Schedule

Each group determines how often they will meet. Small groups generally plan to meet 2, 3, or 4 times each month. Groups should at minimum meet every other week. Meeting less frequently makes it difficult to build authentic relationships and grow spiritually through discussion and study.

Make a Plan for Your Time Together

Groups generally meet for 1 ½ - 2 hours. A typical order of events includes the following:

- **10-15 min** Gathering Time & Fellowship
- **45-60 min** Bible Study & Discussion
    - **10-15 min** Icebreaker Questions or Discussion
    - **5-10 min** Introduction, Set the Theme or Topic
    - **20-30 min** Scripture with Group Discussion Questions
    - **10-15 min** Practical Application
- **5-10 min** Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer

Most groups serve snacks, and some share a meal together. Some groups allow more time for socialization and fellowship, and others include more time for study and discussion.

Curriculum & Study Resources

Each week we provide a small group study that connects with the theme of our weekly sermon. These studies are available online at **medwaychurch.org/leadercentral**. Additionally, groups often choose to study prepared curricula, scripture studies, or even read a book together.

C.O.R.E. Strategy for Small Groups

As a group leader, it is important to understand our C.O.R.E. Strategy for groups. Understanding your C.O.R.E. will help your group build strong relationships, grow spiritually, and ultimately will help you develop strong leaders that can expand our ministry impact in the future.

C.O.R.E. is a set of 4 four core values or attributes of a healthy small group member. C.O.R.E. members are:

Committed

Committed members show up regularly. They show up on time. They communicate when they have to miss and make small group a priority.

Open

Open members are not afraid to share honestly. They are vulnerable and willing to share personal experiences and struggles with the group. They share personal prayer requests and trust the group.

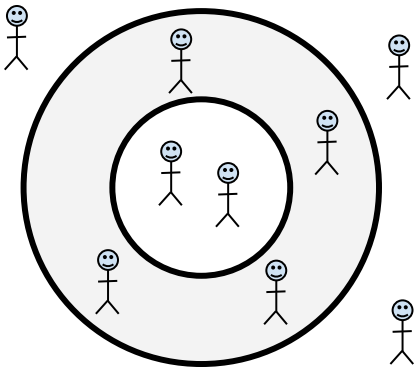
Relational

Relational members are connected to the group. They enjoy spending time together and often communicate with other members outside of group meetings. Group members care for one another and are a part of one another's lives.

Engaged

Engaged members participate in group discussions and events. They respond during discussions and share viewpoints. They ask good questions, stay on topic, and do not need a lot of help to keep good dialogue going.

Three Types of C.O.R.E. Groups

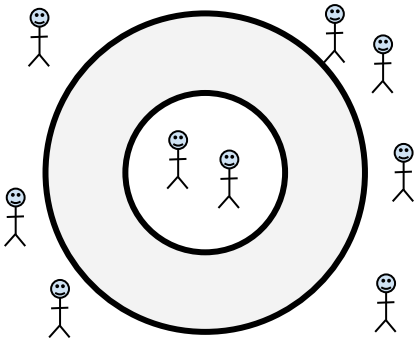


The Ideal

Every group is going to have good leaders in the middle. In an Ideal group, leaders can identify a good number of members who represent the C.O.R.E. values as well as some members who seem to fall short in one or more of the values.

Generally, those outside the C.O.R.E. of the group are newer to the group, and the intent is that they do not stay there long.

This is a healthy style of group.

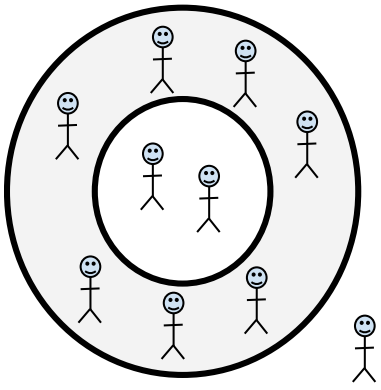


The Island

Sometimes leaders can begin to feel isolated when a majority of the group does not seem to practice the C.O.R.E. values of a group. This often leads to frustration or disappointment as a group leader due to the lack of appreciation or perceived impact of the hard work that goes into being a group leader.

The priority as a leader here is to grow your C.O.R.E. members through very basic and practical action steps.

This is an unhealthy style of group.



The Bubble

When a group has been together for a long time, or strong relationships form easily for members, group leaders generally have an easier time leading their group and pushing for strong spiritual growth.
The issue with this type of group is that, although it feels good for all group members, Bubble groups are often unwelcoming or intimidating for outsiders. It can be difficult for new people to explore a group that is so intimately connected, and makes it difficult to grow our ministry.

This is an unhealthy style of group.

F.A.Q.'s

Who can come to a Medway Small Group?

Our groups are open to anyone who is interested in a group. We generally do not limit or restrict group participation in any way (age, relationship status, etc.). It is up to you as a group leader to determine whether or not your group is the right fit for someone and whether they are a good fit for your group.
If you believe someone is not a correct fit for your group, contact our staff so that we can work with you to get them connected with another group.

What if they do not attend Medway Church?
Our desire is for everyone in a Medway Small Group to call Medway their church home. If you have a group member who does not attend Medway regularly or is not serving in a God Job, you should make every effort to invite them to church and help them to get connected at Medway beyond your Small Group.

In the event someone has another church where they are connected or worship regularly, you are not required to excuse them from your group, but they should be encouraged to connect with a group at their home church. We want everybody to be a part of a church they love, and if they have decided that church is somewhere other than Medway, then it is best that they connect on this deeper level with their church home.

What do we do about childcare?

It is your choice as a group leader whether or not to offer childcare during your group meetings. If you decide to offer childcare, it is your responsibility as a leader to develop a plan for childcare along with your group members.
Some groups offer collective childcare on-site and split the cost among parents. Some groups have each individual parent or couple responsible for securing childcare for their own children either on-site or back at home. Whatever model works for your group, **make sure your expectation is communicated clearly ahead of time to the entire group**.
If your group intends to offer childcare, it would be helpful to fill out the Childcare Guidelines form with your group in order to make sure everyone is in agreement. If you need help coming up with a childcare solution for your group, contact Jason (jstates@medwaychurch.org).

What if we run out of space?

First of all, congratulations. Your group is growing and that's a good thing. If you are out of space either for adults or for children or are at risk of running out of space in the near future, contact Jason (jstates@medwaychurch.org) and share your situation. We can close your group from new sign-ups for a short time while we discuss next steps.

CHURCH CENTER // The Medway Small Groups App

App Use Guidelines For Small Group Members

Church Center is the app used by Medway Church to connect the people of our church to one of our small groups and allow small groups to interact and communicate in order to resource and improve the connectivity of existing small group members. This app is a supplementary resource in addition to the church website and Medway App, which provide the primary digital “front door” of the church.

Tips to help someone find a small group on Church Center:

- Always tell people to start by downloading the Church Center app from wherever they get their smartphone apps
- Search for and make Medway Church your church on the app
- Browse available groups and request to join or ask questions of the group(s) you’re interested in

Keeping the app up-to-date:

- This app experience is offered free to everyone desiring to participate in small groups at Medway Church. However, the church is charged for the usage of the app based on the number of users using our app. Should someone become inactive in a group for an extended period of time (3 months or more), group leaders are asked to remove them from the group within the app so that we are only being charged for those actively using the app.
- If you are removed, please do not fault your group leader for doing as they have been asked. Simply ask your leader (or the Small Groups Pastor) to be added back in once you are again ready to interact with your group.

Community posting guidelines:

- Similar to our expectations for small group discussions, we ask that the following not be posted in the discussions on the Church Center app. If any of the following appears in a group discussion thread, small group leaders are asked to immediately remove it and discuss the situation with that group member. If a group member continues to post any of the following after removal, the small group leader is asked to remove the member from the group and report the situation to the Small Groups Pastor.

    - Comments that are excessively political in nature
    - Anything overly critical or mean-spirited about another person inside or outside of the group, including comments about the church in general.
    - Comments that threaten, suggest, wish, or insinuate harm toward another person or organization
    - Soliciting donations of any kind
    - Personal information about another individual which that person may not want to be posted

In general, if there is the possibility that anything you post could cause someone to be hurt or take offense, ask your group leader for permission before posting.

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD AND BEGIN USING THE APP

church center

FIVE WEEK STARTER CURRICULUM

PLAN FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

On the front of every Medway Church bulletin each week, we publish a very intentional plan for everyone and anyone desiring to grab hold of the better life God desires for us through our walk with Jesus. In order to launch or refocus our small group in the most effective way possible, what better place to begin than “The Plan”?

WEEK ONE // Presence

Plan for Spiritual Growth // Attend Worship Every Week

INTRODUCTION

- What has been your busiest season of life and why was it so busy?
- What important thing do you have the hardest time fitting into your schedule each week?

From family obligations to work requirements to personal goals to rest & rejuvenation... 7 days in a week rarely feel like enough. On top of all of that, God tells us that we should take a Sabbath rest and go to church. Why is this so important, and how in the world can we prioritize it the way it deserves? God has an answer for that!

STUDY

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Hebrews 10:19-23

- Who is our priest and why does that matter?
- How do you assuage your guilty conscience?

We have hope! Our hope is found in Jesus. Through Jesus, we have access to the God of the universe - to enter His presence, to approach His throne, and to fellowship with His people. The gift of God is life through Jesus. That life is meant to be enjoyed WITH God and WITH the family of God... His Church.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Hebrews 10:24-25

- Why is it important to meet together?
- What’s the best thing someone else has done to encourage you?

The first time God ever said that anything about His creation wasn’t good was when He said that it wasn’t good for man to be alone. We were created for community. Glimpses of that community are found in personal bonds with individuals, but the fullness of the community is seldom fully seen outside of the gathering of God’s church.

APPLICATION

- What do you need to adjust in your life in order to make attending church a greater priority?
- Who can you invite to attend church with you?

PRAYER

Pray that God would give you a hunger to spend more time in fellowship with His Church.

WEEK TWO // Daily

Plan for Spiritual Growth // Read your Bible and Pray Daily

INTRODUCTION

- What is something unusual that is or was part of your daily routine?
- Body, mind, or soul; which do you have the most difficult time working on each day?

Time is the great equalizer. No matter your station in life, we all share the limitation of a 24-hour day. So the question isn't how to get more time. But instead, how to organize your time and prioritize your obligations for the most abundant and fulfilled life possible. Lucky for us, God has a lot to say about this!

STUDY

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Psalms 119:9-16

- Which is more important, to know God's Word (the Bible) or to live it?
- How has learning more about the Bible changed your life?

The importance of having a compass to navigate this confusing world cannot be overstated. God has given us a roadmap. It is written in the style of a love letter and it contains both the poetic and the commandment - the grace and the truth. What could be more valuable than drinking in that which defines value itself?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Matthew 6:5-13

- On a scale of 1 (not awkward) to 5 (very awkward), how easy is it for you to pray? Why?
- What point is Jesus trying to make in this passage? Is it wrong to pray in a corporate setting?

To actively converse with the Creator of the universe who lavishes His love on us; what greater privilege could a person enjoy? Yet this amazing experience goes largely neglected by far too many of us. We are invited to engage with God daily, hour by hour. May we not refuse this invitation.

APPLICATION

- How can you change your daily routine in order to read your Bible and pray daily?
- What is the top thing you are waiting for God to give you direction on... or... what answer(s) have you received from God that you now need to walk in?

PRAYER

Pray that God would invite you - even romance you - into a daily intimate walk with Him through Scripture and into conversation.

WEEK THREE // Together

Plan for Spiritual Growth // Commit to a Small Group that Meets Regularly

INTRODUCTION

- What is the greatest team in fiction (TV, film, literature, etc.) and why?
- What was the greatest team of people you were a part of, and what was so great about that team?

Go team go! Most of us can remember the high school pep rally or Friday night roar of the football stadium. There is an excitement that comes from being counted among a team that locks arms together to vanquish the challenger or achieve the objective. There is strength in numbers, and there is beauty in the fellowship referred to as a team.

STUDY

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Acts 2:42-47

- Have you ever experienced an environment like the one described in this passage? What is the closest you've gotten to a group like this?
- What would need to happen in order for you to be a productive member of a group like the one in the early church?

"They devoted themselves." They didn't casually hang out. They didn't passively converse. They strapped in, locked arms, stood back to back... and DEVOTED themselves. The beauty and strength of that type of fellowship of believers is humbling. It is also one of the best examples in human history for us as God's church to follow.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- Do you think it is safer to go through life solo (depending mainly on yourself) or in a group (depending on others)?
- Are you a person who allows other people in, or do you keep people at bay? Why do you describe yourself that way?

Someday you WILL stumble. You will be weak. You will be injured. You will feel like giving up. You will doubt your ability to pick yourself back up off the ground. If you haven't already experienced the truth behind these statements, it's coming sooner than you would like. It is in those times that we see not only the immense value in our relationship with God but also our relationships with one another.

APPLICATION

- What kind of small group do you hope to create together?
- What can you do to support the members of your small group?

PRAYER

Pray that God would give you the strength and bravery to open up to a small group of believers and be trustworthy enough for them to open up to you.

WEEK FOUR // Working

Plan for Spiritual Growth // Commit to a God Job and Serve Every Week

INTRODUCTION

- What is an odd or unique talent you possess?
- What is the strangest or most difficult job you've ever had?

Everyone is gifted in unique ways to contribute to the good of the world around them. But when we combine our giftedness with the light of the world - Jesus, and the spiritual giftedness through the Holy Spirit, doors fling wide open for us to experience, in the most powerful of ways, the fulfillment and joy God desires for us.

STUDY

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 Peter 4:8-11

- Why is serving God and people so important?
- What spiritual gifts/talents has God given you?

What can the God of the universe do with a willing person? What did Jesus do with the lunchbox of a boy who had fish and bread? What did God do with a boy who had a sling and some rocks standing in front of a giant? What did the Holy Spirit do with a self-righteous religious murderer named Saul? He can do some pretty cool stuff with willing people, huh?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Matthew 25:35-40

- What act(s) of service most make you feel loved?
- Is it more important to do large acts of service once in a while or small acts of service every day?

Where do you see Jesus? Where do you need to see Jesus? How can you see and serve Jesus in the extraordinary, in the mundane, and the undesirable? Few questions are more challenging and more paradigm-shifting than these. That is exactly why they are worth as ourselves... daily!

APPLICATION

- How can you use your giftedness to serve the people around you?
- What is your God job at Medway Church, or what God job would you like to start?

PRAYER

Pray that God would give you His eyes to see who and how He desires to have you serve.

WEEK FIVE // Sacrificial

Plan for Spiritual Growth // Commit to Tithing and a Lifestyle of Generosity

INTRODUCTION

- What is the best Christmas or birthday gift you ever received?
- Who is the most generous person you know, and what makes them so generous in your eyes?

Everyone loves to receive something they need or desire. But there is an inherent beauty in giving a gift that is needed or desired. The blessing one experiences when one becomes the fulfillment of another person's need is something truly special. God created us this way for a reason. We exist to contribute to His work and His blessings toward others and toward His Church.

STUDY

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Malachi 3:6-10

- What is the difference between a tithe and an offering?
- Have you tested God in this? If yes, what was the result?

What a bold statement - “Test me!” For God to make such a powerful statement demands our attention. He makes this statement paired with the promise of blessings because He is faithful and He will deliver. We are called to give and contribute to His work and to His church so that we can experience the freedom and purpose He wants so dearly to bless us with.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ Mark 12:41-44

- Why doesn’t God make the poor exempt from giving tithes and offerings?
- What attitude does God want us to have when giving?

In 2 Corinthians 9, God tells us the kind of giver He desires. He doesn’t want a rich or a poor giver. He doesn’t want an obligated or a mindless giver. He wants a cheerful giver who gives from a genuine, heartfelt desire from deep down, exposing the redeemed heart of flesh God has placed in them. May we all be that kind of giver!

APPLICATION

- What can you do to ensure you are giving out of joyful generosity and not grumpy obligation?
- What will it take for you to either start giving or to increase your generosity?

PRAYER

Pray that God would free you or keep you free of the love of money and place your joy and trust in Him in new and powerful ways.

FORMS

Member Expectations

Childcare Agreement

Leader Covenant

MEMBER EXPECTATIONS

Small groups are the way we intentionally seek to build radical Christ followers. By being a part of a small group, I am committing to do my best to seek Him and take my next steps toward becoming a radical follower of Jesus. As a member of this small group, I am making a commitment to:

- **Regular Attendance:** I will make every effort to be at all our gatherings. I will make it a point to be on time.
- **Spiritual growth:** I will do my best to read my Bible, pray every day, and do any "homework." I will be transparent and honest about where I am spiritually.
- **Sharing:** I will try to step out of my comfort zone and voice my thoughts, feelings, and opinions. I will try to actively be a part of the group.
- **Confidentiality:** Our small group is a safe place to share what is going on in your life, even if it is difficult or embarrassing. What happens in the group is for the group only. I will respect people when they share things in confidence.
- **Acceptance:** I will do my best to act patiently, lovingly, and kindly towards others in the group. I understand everyone comes in with different and diverse ideas and opinions. I will actively listen and invite ideas from others and refrain from introducing or engaging in difficult topics such as politics, social issues, etc.
- **Respect:** I will consider the impact my words have and be aware of how tone, word choice, or sense of humor may be received by others. I will use words to encourage and build up group members, and not to argue or tear down.
- **Focus:** I will take care not to engage in conversation too far away from the intended topic, or to approach issues outside of the focus of our ministry (politics, social issues, etc.).
- **Invitation:** I welcome and actively try to foster growth (adding new people) to our group.
- **Multiplication:** I am working to help us grow spiritually and numerically towards being able to start new groups.

CHILDCARE AGREEMENT

Fill this out as a group.

Who will provide childcare for your group?
Who will be responsible for ensuring childcare is in place?

What age range of children will you provide childcare for?
What is the plan for children outside of that age range?

Will you pay for childcare? How much will you pay?
Who is responsible for the childcare cost?

CHILDCARE AGREEMENT *sample*

Fill this out as a group.

Who will provide childcare for your group?
Who will be responsible for ensuring childcare is in place?

We will hire a babysitter during group times.

Parents will take turns helping to schedule a babysitter.

What age range of children will you provide childcare for?
What is the plan for children outside of that age range?

Toddlers and above will be with the babysitter.

Infants can be with the babysitter or attend group with their parents.

If infants in the group get loud or disruptive, the parent and child will step away from the group until the child calms down.

Will you pay for childcare? How much will you pay?
Who is responsible for the childcare cost?

Yes, we will pay for a babysitter.

Cost will be split based on the number of families that use childcare:

$5 per family given to the small group leader each week.

LEADER COVENANT

I will **protect the unity** of my church:

...by acting in love toward other members

... by refusing to gossip

...by following the leaders of the church

I will **share the responsibility** of my church:

...by praying for its growth

...by inviting the unchurched to attend

...by warmly welcoming those who visit

I will commit to Medway's **plan for spiritual growth**:

...attending worship every week

...reading my Bible and praying daily

...committing to a small group that meets regularly

...committing to a God Job and serving every week

...committing to tithing and a lifestyle of generosity

I will commit to living a lifestyle that mirrors **biblical leadership principles**:

...being willing to model humility in addressing our own sin

...living a life above reproach, being self-controlled, respectable, and hospitable

...cultivating a good reputation both inside and outside the church

...avoiding drunkenness, greed, pride, violence, and arguments

...abiding by the teaching that sex belongs exclusively within the bounds of marriage

I will commit to **growing our small group and groups ministry** by:

...modeling the listed expectations and qualifications of a group leader at all times

...providing opportunities for group members to build relationships with one another

...keeping the study and discussion of Scripture a central focus of our time together

...organizing opportunities for group members to serve together

...challenging group members to grow as disciples of Jesus

...inviting and including new group members and keeping an "open chair"

...releasing mature members to start new groups over time

SIGN: _____ DATE: _____

PRINT: _____

MORE RESOURCES // WHEN MORE HELP IS NEEDED

RECOMMENDED COUNSELING SERVICES

New Creation Counseling Center
Phone: 937-667- 4678
Website:NewCreationCounselingCenter.org
Locations: Centerville (Fairhaven Church), Tipp City (Main Office), East Dayton (New Hope Church)

- Licensed counselors
- Affordable (sliding pay scale and accept some insurance)
- Waiting list

SouthBrook Church // Care Ministry
Phone: (937) 435-9966
Website: SouthBrook.org/Ministries/Support
Location: 9095 Washington Church Road, Miamisburg, OH 45342

- Pastoral Counseling (non-licensed)
- Free
- Same-week appointments

Marriage Counseling // Steve Karnehm
Phone: (937) 237-5001
Location: 7049 Taylorsville Road, Suite E, Huber Heights, OH 45424

Addiction Counseling // Angelia K Dussia
Phone: (937) 849-1257
Location: Aletheia Counseling Center, 2675 Medway New Carlisle Rd, Medway, OH 45341

SUPPORT GROUPS

AA
Time: Every Wednesday at 7:30 pm
Location: Medway Church: Octagon

Al Anon
Time: Every Tuesday at 6:30 pm
Location: Medway Church: Conference Rm B

Cancer Support Group
Time: 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:00pm
Location: Medway Church: Octagon

Foster, Kinship, Adoption Group
Time: 1st Monday at 6:30 pm
Location: YMCA Huber Heights

GriefShare
Time: 2nd & 4th Monday at 7:00pm
Location: Medway Church: Conference Rm A

FOOD AND CLOTHING ASSISTANCE

Clothing Closet
Time: 2nd & 4th Sat. at 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Location: Medway Church

Food Pantry
Time: Saturday at 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Location: Medway Church
Serving Park Layne, Crystal Lake, and Medway Residents

NOTES