

Being The Church

Tools for Small Group

“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 Christ.” Acts 5:42

This verse is a model of the two-wing church ... the large group wing (in the temple courts) and the small group wing (from house to house). Your small group is a church – it is a smaller expression of the larger church. It is through the church, both in the large group and the small group wings, that our five-fold mission is fulfilled:

Pursue – we pursue God’s presence, worshipping Him in spirit and in truth.

Connect – we live in community, knowing others and being known.

Become – we become whole people through Christ’s life in us, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Serve – we give freely of our time and resources to meet practical needs of others.

Reach – we share the redeeming message of Jesus Christ to others.

As a small group leader, serving as a lay pastor to your group, your role is to shepherd, disciple and equip the people in your group to grow in living out these five values of being the church.

Here are some great tools to equip you in discipling your people to be the church:

Index/Descriptions:

BECOME - Becoming Like Jesus

- [Baptism](#) – A quick reference guide to help you shepherd someone through their baptism journey.
- [Bible Reading for Small Groups](#) – Bible reading plans and discussion questions to help you immerse yourselves in the word of God.
- [Child Dedication](#) – A quick reference guide to help you shepherd someone through the child dedication process.
- [The Six-Question Bible Study](#) – A simple Bible study method that can be used as a stand-alone small group study/lesson.

- [The Small Group Sermon Study](#) – A general sermon study guide that can be used as a stand-alone small group study/lesson.

CONNECT - Connecting in Community

- [Debriefing Small Group Activities](#) – Discussion prompts to facilitate debriefing after a small group project, event or activity.
- [Opening Group to New People](#) – A leader's guide to shepherding your group in being open to and welcoming new people.
- [Small Group Icebreaker Ideas](#) – Creative questions to get people talking.

PURSUE - Pursuing God's Presence

- [Communion](#) – A quick reference guide to leading communion in a small group.
- [Connecting with God Activity](#) – A simple activity to guide others to experience a connection with God through gratitude, thanksgiving and remembering.
- [Hearing God for Others](#) – A step-by-step tool with guidelines for leading others through listening prayer.
- [Hosting a Healing Prayer Event](#) – A guide to hosting a healing prayer event as a small group.
- [Interacting with Scripture](#) – Sample devotional tools to help engage with scripture.
- [Our Authority in Christ](#) – An introductory guide for believers to help them understand their authority in Christ.
- [Practicing Personal Freedom](#) – How to help others experience greater spiritual freedom through confession and repentance.
- [Prayer Pointers for Believers](#) – Key themes and scriptures that we can pray for other followers of Jesus.
- [Shepherding Worship](#) – Essential elements for facilitating and enhancing worship in small group.
- [Spiritual Warfare Quick Reference Guide](#) – Practical tools to stand strong in the midst of the spiritual battle.

REACH - Reaching Our World

- A Job or a Calling? – How to help your group members recognize their ‘jobs’ as strategic opportunities to reach our world.
- Heartland’s Global Partners – Ideas on reaching our world through Heartland’s global partnerships.
- Heartland’s Local Community Partners – How your small group can support our local community partners.
- How to Share your Faith – Resources to empower your group members to share their faith.
- Local Partnership Prayer Scavenger Hunt – Take a drive to find some of our local partnerships, praying and blessing them as you do!
- Prayer Pointers for Non-believers – Specific ideas and scriptures to pray for non-believers.
- Short-term Missions Guide – A quick reference guide to help you shepherd a group interested in short-term missions.

SERVE - Serving Others Freely

- Serving Together – A quick planning guide to help your group discover ways to serve others freely.

