

Groups
Leader Training



Leader Training 1 for Life Group & Common Group Leaders

Session 1: Groups Vision & Values

"We Build Communities..."

Session 2: Invitational Groups

"To Reach Every Community"

Session 3: Essentials to Leading

Best Practices & Common Barriers

Session 4: Getting Ready for Launch

Communication & Preparation



Session One | *Groups Vision & Values*

We Build Communities to Reach Every Community

*Within the Groups Ministry here at Rockharbor, our primary role in the church is to create environments where people can **become like Jesus together**. Throughout the gospels, we see Jesus teach this message, "The time has come... the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" [Mark 1:15]. Jesus came to announce the Kingdom of God and ushered that Kingdom into our world through his death and resurrection. Now, through the presence of the Holy Spirit, **we can partner with God** to join Him in advancing His Kingdom here and now.*

*In your Group, our desire is that this pursuit and partnership with the Holy Spirit is **central to who you are as a leader**. This means that one of the **BEST** things you can do as a leader is to be aware of God's intentions for your Group. Whether it's through the sermon-based curriculum or an activity with a common group, we want to fight for your time together to be more than simply "hanging out" and "being friends." This is definitely the launching pad, but God has so much in mind for you and your group. As you grow closer together as a group, you'll have more and more opportunities to do life together, and as that plays out, **becoming more and more like Jesus**.*

***We do Groups because it is a primary place where _____
_____ can happen together.***

This kind of community is the best way God has given us to do life together.

"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." - Ecclesiastes 4:12

Questions to Discuss

Unfortunately, 21st Century Western thinking teaches us that we are first and foremost individuals, independent, and we can do anything on our own if we just set our minds to it. Think about your work, social life, habits, attitudes, and beliefs, and the ways that you are pushed towards isolation.

1. Where in our culture or in your daily life do you see patterns that lead you to avoid depending on others and seeing others as essential to your growth and health and wholeness? In what ways are people pushed towards isolation? List a few examples below as you discuss.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

2. How can this Scripture from Ecclesiastes apply to the kind of group that you plan on starting?

Session Two | *Invitational Groups*

...to Reach Every Community

Think about a time when you were invited to something. It may have been a birthday party, a hangout with friends, a date, an event. How did it make you feel? What about invitation matters to us?

Deep within our souls, every human wants and needs to feel as if they belong. The deepest realization of this belonging is found in God. As Church Father Augustine of Hippo writes in the 4th Century,

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." - Confessions

But while God desires us to find our resting place in Him, He also gives us others, people who bear his Image, to mirror and imitate this sense of belonging. This, we believe, is what lies at the root of an Invitation's power.

*Psychologist **Bessel Van Der Kolk** writes this about the power of belonging to and with others:*

"...we are collective creatures. We don't exist as individuals. Our brain is meant to be in synchrony with other brains. Interaction with other brains fundamentally shapes who we are. When we cry, we're supposed to get a response, and when we laugh, somebody is supposed to laugh with us."

The _____ of _____ _____ is what makes a Group work best.

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net... "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Mark 1:16-17



What has been one of the most important invitations from another person you have ever received? (This could even be as simple as the first time your spouse/best friend ever asked you out to coffee) How was your life changed by receiving this invitation?

Additional Notes

Session Three | *Essentials to Leading*

Common Barriers & Best Practices

Building Relationships

Tools for creating an intentional space for building relationships:

Welcoming & Inviting | Groups create a space where people can feel at home and grow as a family. In a healthy family, everyone gets to play a part. From the very moment people walk in we want to help them to feel welcome and invite them to belong.

Relational | Groups are all about building relationships. We want to get to know one another in all areas of life and foster an environment where people feel safe: in being themselves, in sharing, and in doing life together. Whether a Life Group or Common Group, we want to guide the group to engage in ways that help members to know and be known by one another.

Fun | Groups should be a place where we can have fun together. Almost every friendship EVER made starts with a positive, shared experience.

Most Common Questions from new Group Members

...before they join

- *How much _____ is this going to take?*
- *Where will I _____ ?*
- *Will there be _____ ?*
- *Am I going to have to _____ or can I just _____ during the meetings?*
- *Will I have to _____ out loud?*
- *How much do I have to know about the _____ ?*
- *How long is the _____ ?*
- *If I don't _____, can I _____ without anyone being upset?*
- *What are we going to do during the meetings?*

Best Practices

...for getting off on the right foot

- Know your _____ and be able to _____ to your group.
- Make It Fun (Food & Games for the first event works best)
- Anticipate the concerns listed above that potential group members have
- Communicate Well & Promptly
 - Your _____ Emails, Your _____ Text
 - Communicate _____ & _____ your first event
 - Give _____ & Details about the next event
- Before the Group gets established and has a rhythm, treat your group members as _____.
- At your first meeting, _____ the group's values but leave room for Input to create _____.

Tricks of the Trade

...once your group is up and running

- Keep your Group's _____, _____ and _____ as consistent as possible, especially at the beginning
- Hold your _____ loosely, and trust God to do His work
- _____ for your Group
- Practice Good Weekly _____
- Invite Others into leadership responsibility as soon as you can
 - You want _____, not only _____.



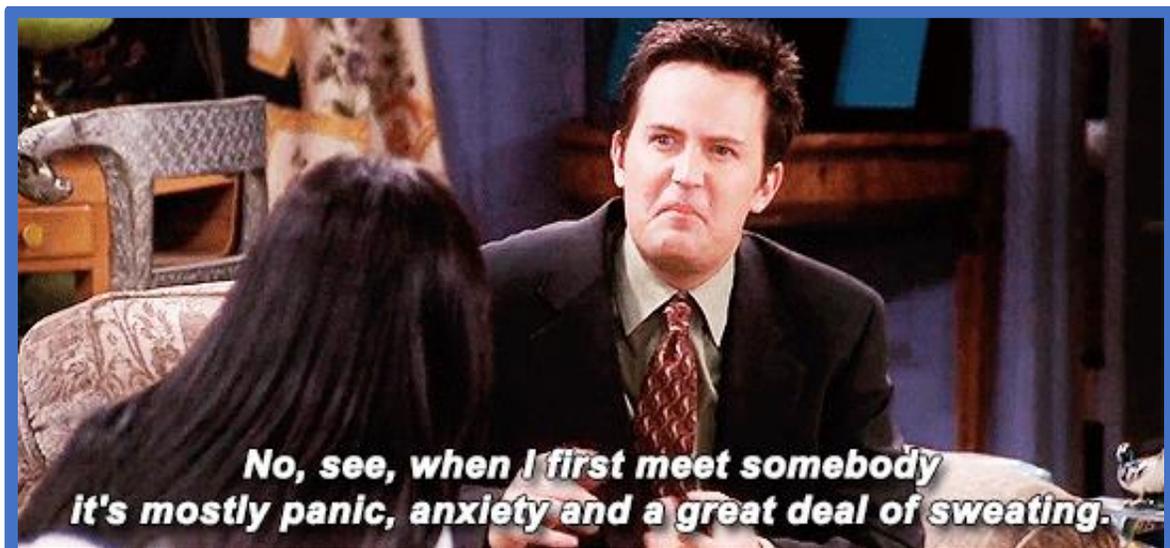
What is your leadership metaphor? What kind of group leader do you want to be? List as many metaphors for leadership types that you can think of:

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

What a Group Leader Might be Thinking:



What a Group Member Might be Thinking...





Session Four | *Getting Ready for Launch*

Communication & Preparation

Adding Group Members

- *Personal Invitation - why does this make a difference?*
- *Face to Face Interaction at Launch Sunday*
- *Via RH App or Website*

Launch Sunday Details for Group Leader Recruitment

- *Arrive at outdoor patio 10 minutes prior to service ending*
 - **10:15a | 12:15p | 8:15p**
- *Be Prepared to Share about your Group*
- **To Know:**
 - *how to add Group members with myRH online or the LEAD App*
 - *Walkthrough In the myRH Training Manual*
 - *Next Steps Card*

Recruitment Tips

- *Add 25-40% more members than you actually want - there will be no-shows*
- *Have your first event/night planned and scheduled for either that week or the following week*
- *Make sure that you get their contact info before they leave so you can extend an invitation*

Questions for Launch Sunday or your Group?