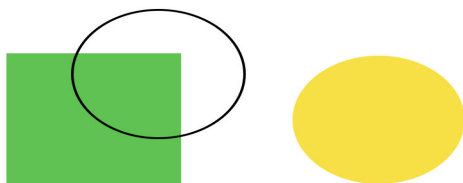
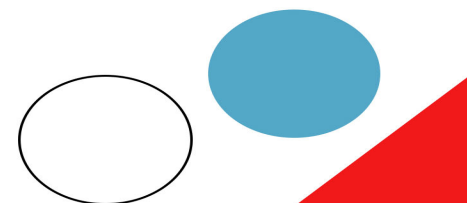


# Love Church 2022 SMALL GROUPS LEADER RALLY

August 20, 2022



Small Groups | love.



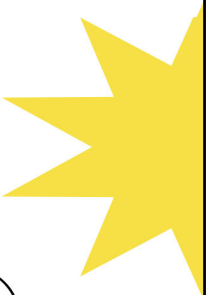
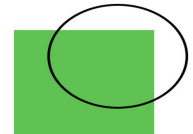


# Today's Agenda

- Our Vision for Small Groups
- Our Framework for Small Groups
- The Heart of Small Groups
- Leading Successfully
- Let's Celebrate!
- What's Ahead?
- Get after It!



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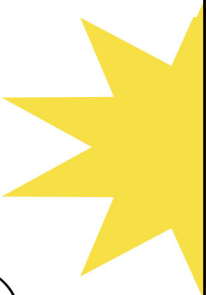
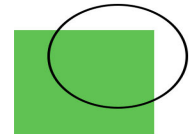
# Our Vision for Love Church Small Groups

## Love Church Mission

- To lead people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

## Small Groups Vision

- To develop a community of believers who are willing to go beyond the Sunday lobby and help each other reach the goal of becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus.





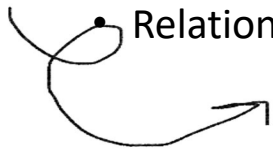
# The “Why” Behind Small Groups

To accomplish the mission of Love Church, we use five plays as one of the key ways of becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus:

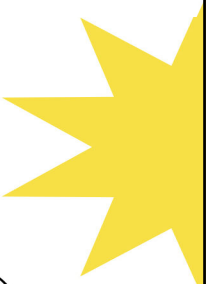
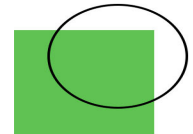
- Prayer
- Sunday Services
- Small Groups
- Serving
- Giving

Becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus means to become a disciple. Discipleship happens in addition to but mostly outside of the “Sunday Experience”. To be a disciple of Jesus requires being intentional about having a relationship with Him and with others. Relationships are critical to transformation.

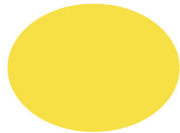
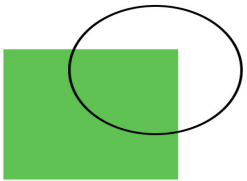
- Relationship is the key ingredient in these action steps
- Relationships define, grow, challenge, and strengthen us



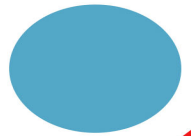
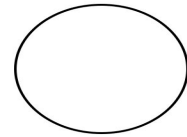
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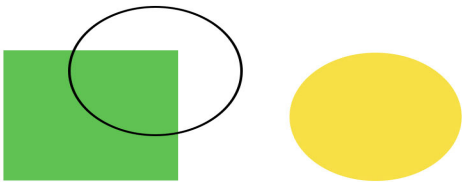
# ICE BREAKER EXERCISE



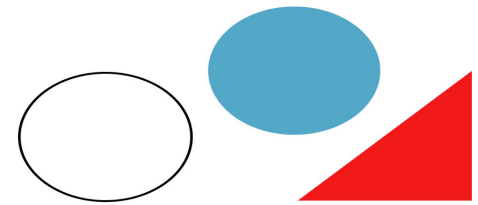
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# OUR FRAMEWORK FOR SMALL GROUPS

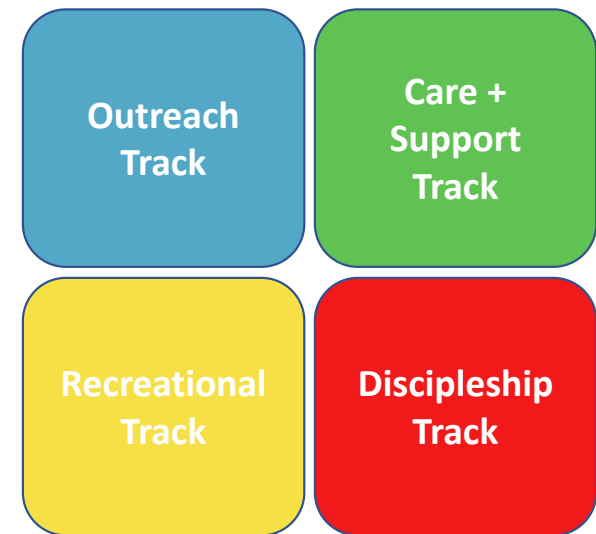


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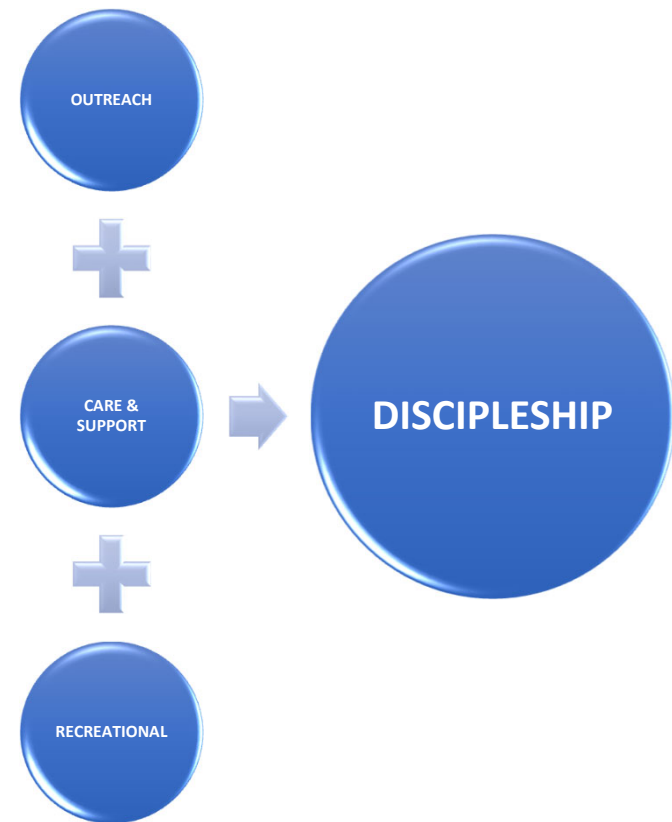
# Small Groups Framework – 4 Tracks

- Streamlines standard and free-market groups into three tracks, noted as Outreach, Care + Support, and Recreational, which offer connection to God and people.
- Special emphasis is placed on the fourth track called Discipleship. The Discipleship Track is specifically designed to develop one's maturity and growth in God, and their role in Love Church.



# Small Groups Framework – 4 Tracks in Action

- The Discipleship Track is where everyone should point to and be a part of
- All of the other 3 tracks are initial points of connection a bridge to getting on the discipleship track
- We should use our influence as leaders to help everyone get into and stay on the path of discipleship in addition to or instead of what the participant is doing for the other 3 tracks



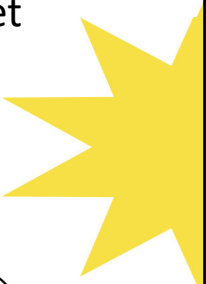
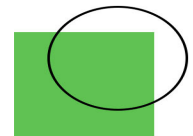




# Moving Away from “Launches” & “Semesters”

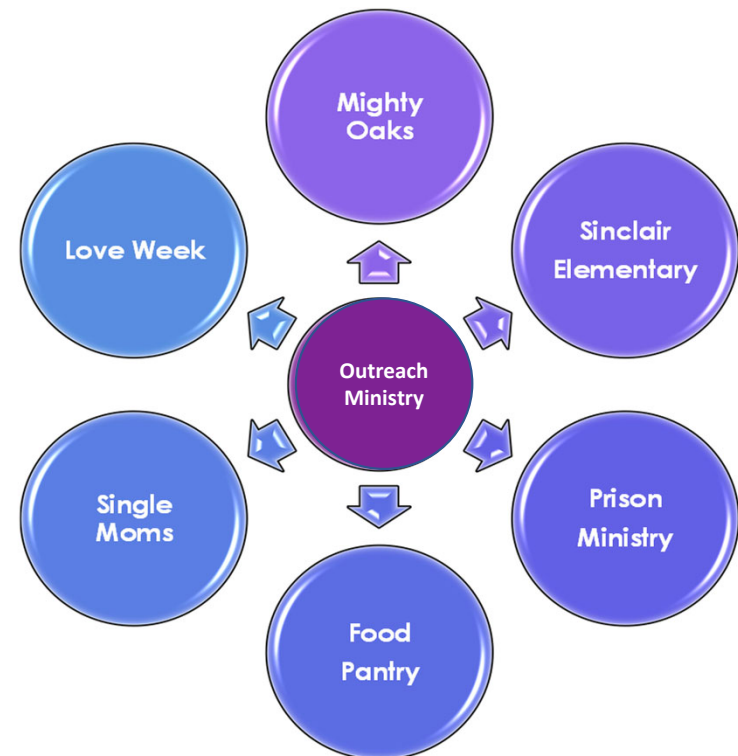
## The ‘Why’ Behind the Change:

- Introducing “Small Groups Sunday” throughout year to offer continuous cycle of groups
- Allows small group leaders the freedom to lead a group that isn't necessarily a whole 'semester'.
- Allows staggering of groups throughout the entire year (i.e., 10 couples can lead alternating marriage groups, which removes the pressure on 2 or 3 marriage groups from running all year long.)
- Allows the freedom to have a Small Groups Sunday whenever leadership deems it necessary or strategic.
- Enables leadership to combine a sermon with a Small Groups Sunday. For example, if we know in advance there will be a sermon or collection on raising families - we would have the ability to get several parenting groups ready to start and align with that Sunday's message.
- Offers ability for small group leaders to start a group at any point during the year. For example, Sisterhood Seed groups don't align with a particular semester (semesters lock us in and tie our hands)



# Outreach Track

- **Description:** Two types of Outreach in this track include our standard Ministry teams and will now debut Outreach Small Groups. Small groups to meet at varying times of the week and/or month to serve our community.
- **Who can join?** Anyone
- **Who Can Lead?** Leaders who've completed Church 101 (or equivalent)



# Small Groups Needed – Outreach Track

- Prayer group(s)
- Monthly “Love” group
  - Senior living centers
  - Umbrella blessing
  - Care packages for the homeless
- Rideshare group to bring people to church

# Care & Support Track

- **Description:** Small groups that are designed to provide care and support when dealing with specific areas or topics of life. For example, small groups in this track may be focused on restoring your finances, your marriage, emotional healing, or addressing an addiction.
- **Who can join?** Anyone
- **Who Can Lead?** Leaders who've completed Step 2 of the Discipleship Track

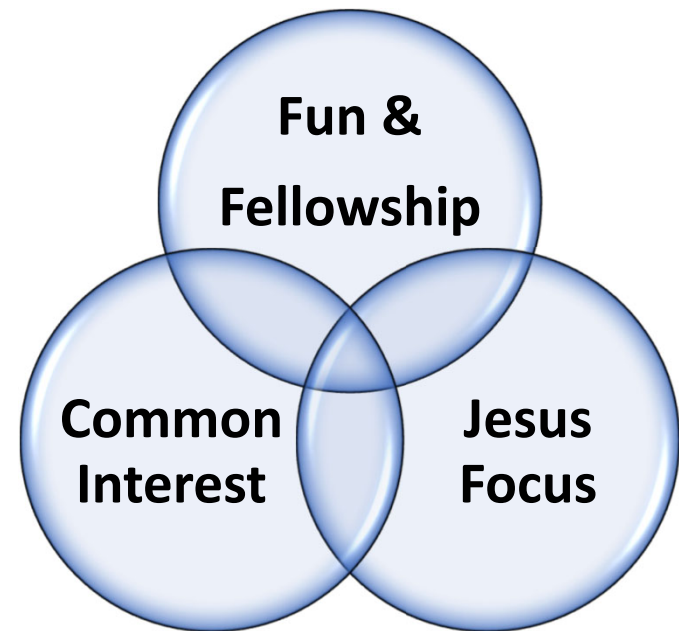


# Small Groups Needed – Care + Support Track

- Marriage group(s)
- Parenting group  
(playdates/hangouts)
- Single Moms/Dads groups
- Support groups for those with aging parents
- Financial Peace University
- GriefShare
- Celebrate Recovery (Male co-lead)

# Recreational Track

- **Description:** Small groups structured around a free-market approach of fellowship and connection. This track allows leaders to turn their existing relationships, interests, and hobbies into small groups where people can foster community.
- **Who can join?** Anyone
- **Who Can Lead?** Leaders who've completed Church 101 (or equivalent)



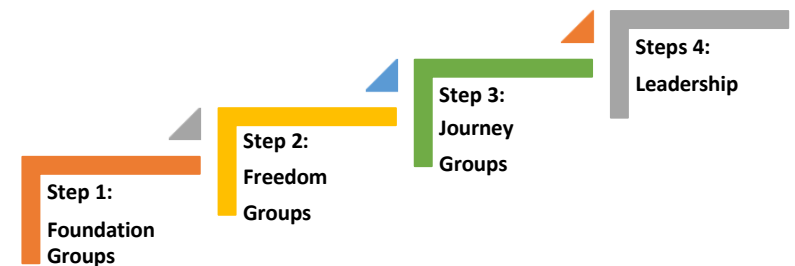
# Small Groups Needed – Recreational Track

- Men's recreational groups
- Game Night group
- Foodies - go to restaurants or rotate homes
- Activities based- walking, running, sports

# Discipleship Track

A biblically-based 4-step process toward becoming a more mature, fully devoted follower of Jesus. These small groups are more intentional about growing one's relationship with God and being led by the Holy Spirit.

- **Step 1 – Foundation Groups:** For new believers and participants who want to learn about key biblical principles and take the next steps in their new-found faith.
- **Step 2 – Freedom Groups:** Participants learn to remove every obstacle to intimacy with God and walk in true freedom.
- **Step 3 – Journey Groups:** Transitional Phase for taking participants deeper in their faith and calling.
- **Step 4 – Leadership:** Participants learn to live and lead through the Holy Spirit.

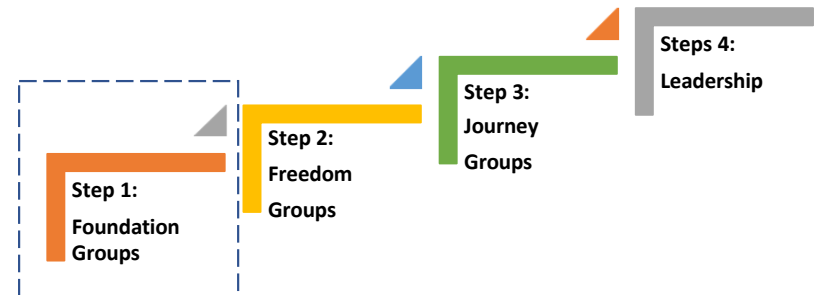




# Discipleship Track – Step 1: Foundation

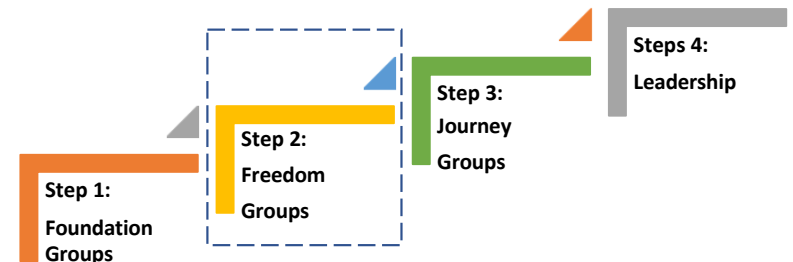
Small groups designed to take new believers through the early steps of their new faith in Christ and increase their foundational knowledge of who God is and what their faith can lead to.

- Baptism
- Basic Foundation Studies
- Love Church Values



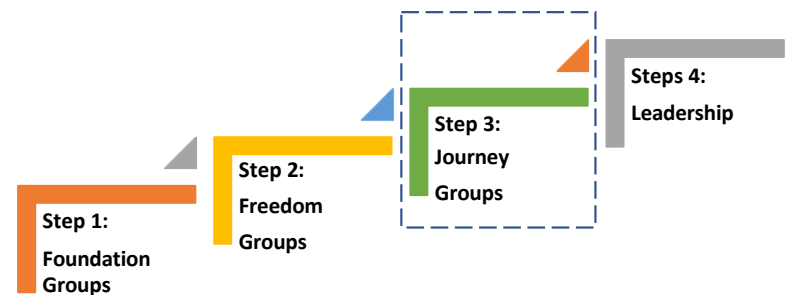
# Discipleship Track – Step 2: Freedom

Small groups designed to equip participants to live the victorious and abundant life Christ came to give. Freedom groups build on the foundation of faith in Christ to help participants embrace the truth of God's Word as it relates to their worldview, their past, their sin, their personal value to God, and their purpose in His Kingdom.



# Discipleship Track – Step 3: Journey Groups

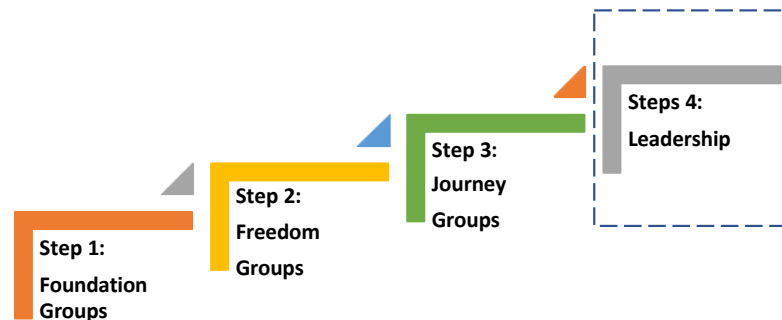
Small groups designed to equip each participant with a stronger understanding of Love Church culture and tools to mature in their faith. These groups consist of Pastor-led biblical teachings, Bible study groups, or preapproved, biblically-based curriculum.



# Discipleship Track – Step 4: Leadership

Small groups focused on cultivating each participant's leadership capabilities and on developing disciple-makers.

*(Note: Currently in development)*

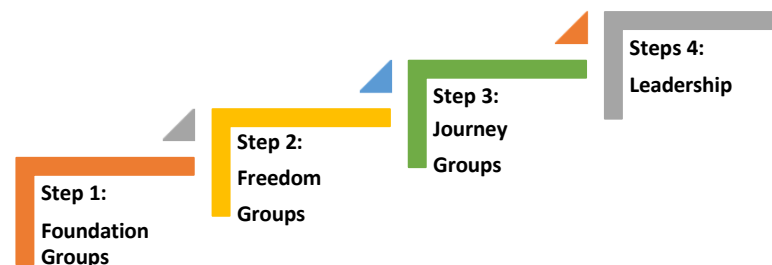


# It's All About Growth

As a small group leader, you are critical to each participant's growth plan. It doesn't matter what group you are leading or what track your leading out of, you should always be encouraging each participant to progress to or through the Discipleship Track.

What Does That Look Like?

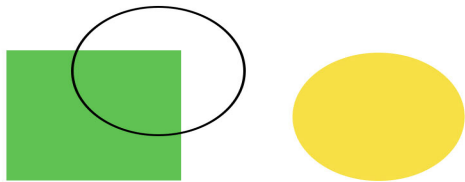
- When leading in the Care & Support, Outreach, or Recreational tracks, encourage participants to join a Foundation Group (Step 1) in the Discipleship Track when your group ends (or in addition to your group).
- When leading a Foundation Group (Step 1) within the Discipleship Track, it's important to encourage participants to transition to a Freedom Group (Step 2) within the Discipleship Track.
- Each leader should look to do everything they can to encourage each person to grow. This could mean that the next growth point might be outside your group, and this is a great thing!
- Each person's faith journey is different from another's and will most likely involve more than just one thing, one group, one decision or one vessel for God to do everything He wants to do in each of us.



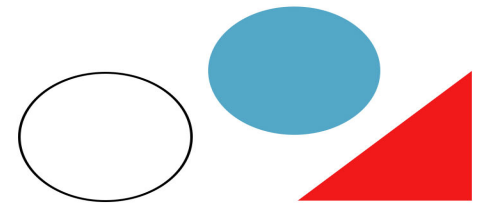
# Small Groups Needed – Discipleship Track

- Brotherhood & Sisterhood Freedom groups
- Brotherhood Huddle Leads
- Sisterhood Seed groups
- Biblical book/study groups

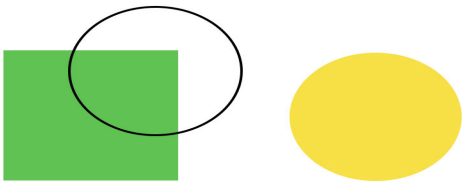
# Q&A



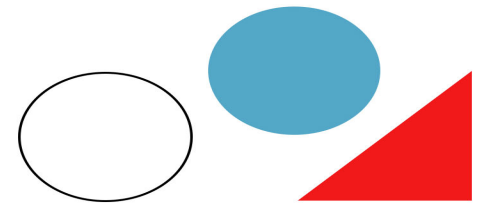
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# THE HEART OF SMALL GROUPS



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# The Heart of Small Groups

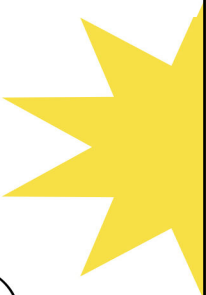
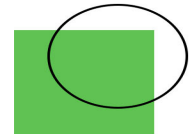
Small Groups Provide:

- A Place to Connect
- A Place of Support
- A Place to Grow
- A Place where Pastoral Care Take Place:
  - Prayer Needs
  - Physical Needs
  - Crisis Management

**AS A SMALL GROUP LEADER, YOU ARE A KEY PARTNER IN LOVE CHURCH'S GROWTH AND CARE PLAN!**



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# A Community Within A Community

Love Church is a church of small groups not a church with small groups. To ensure this objective is continuously maintained, we've created ways to make it easier to connect on levels that foster stronger, deeper connections for men and women alike through our Brotherhood and Sisterhood ministries.

**Brotherhood**



- Allows men and women to connect beyond just the small group(s) they're in. As a man, you automatically become part of Brotherhood—and as a woman, you automatically become a part of Sisterhood.
- Each ministry offers events throughout the year where participants across all small group tracks come together to connect and grow along their journey no matter which small group(s) they may be in.



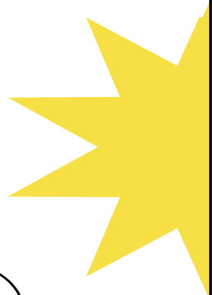
# Small Group Leader Expectations

## EXPECTATIONS:

- RUN LOVE CHURCH'S PLAYBOOK
  - PRAYER
  - SUNDAY SERVICE
  - SMALL GROUPS
  - SERVE TEAM
  - TITHE
- KNOW AND EXHIBIT OUR 7 VALUES
- BE A MEMBER OF LOVE CHURCH

## RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Pray for your group daily
- Check in bi-weekly with your Campus Director
- Provide a healthy small group environment with a good vibe
- Manage members and attendance in Planning Center Online (PCO)
- Serve twice a year at your campus small group kiosk



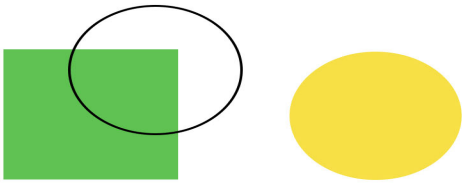
# New Requirement: Background Check

1. Small Groups Central Director submits request to office
2. Form link emailed to small group leader from Checkr
3. Small group leader completes & submits form
4. Once Background Check is complete, results notification is sent to the small group leader from Checkr
5. Small Groups Central Director is notified of results by the office
  - “Pass” clearance is good for 2 years
  - If clearance fails, that does not automatically disqualify someone from leading a small group. In such an instance, a meeting invite will be sent to discuss in detail so a final decision can be made.

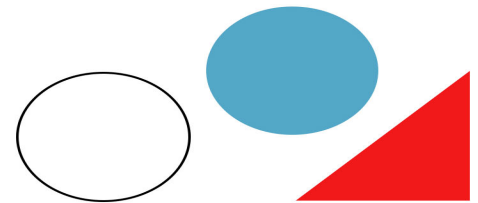
Safety is a priority  
for our church  
family!

If you serve on a team at Love Church that has already required a Background Check, then that will meet the requirement as a small group leader too.

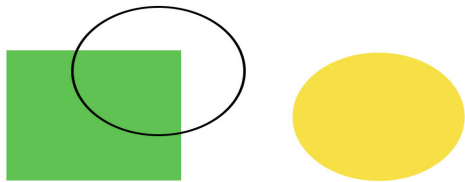
# BREAK



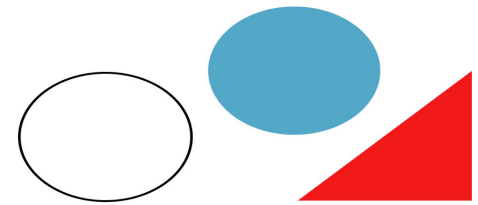
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# LEADING SUCCESSFULLY



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# Launching a Successful Small Group

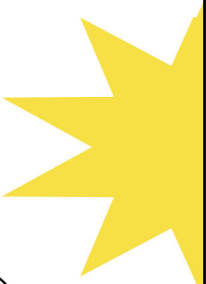
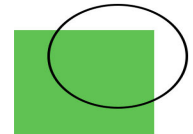
## Who to Invite?

- Start with people you know (co-workers, friends, neighbors).
- Talk with people at church – new to church, new believers, or have shown interest in getting involved.
- People you see potential in. Help them grow in who God has created them to be.
- Pray! Ask God to open your eyes to people.

## Where to Meet?

If you cannot meet in your own home, look for a host home (possibly the home of someone attending your group). Other possibilities for meeting locations include:

- Library Conference Room
- Recreation Center
- Subdivision Clubhouse
- Outdoors in a Park
- Restaurant or Coffee Shop
- Church Campus





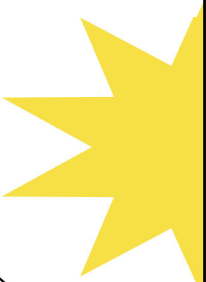
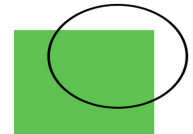
# When to Meet?

Small groups can meet throughout the week, during the day or evening. When deciding on the day and time of your group, think about what works best within your work and family schedule.

## **Recommendation:** Create Margin!

Consider meeting every other week in order to:

- Allow for rest and manage the rest life
- Allow for prayer and preparation for the next lesson
- Allow for action items to be completed by participants
- Allow for leadership meetings called by Campus and/or Central Directors





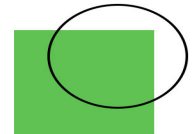
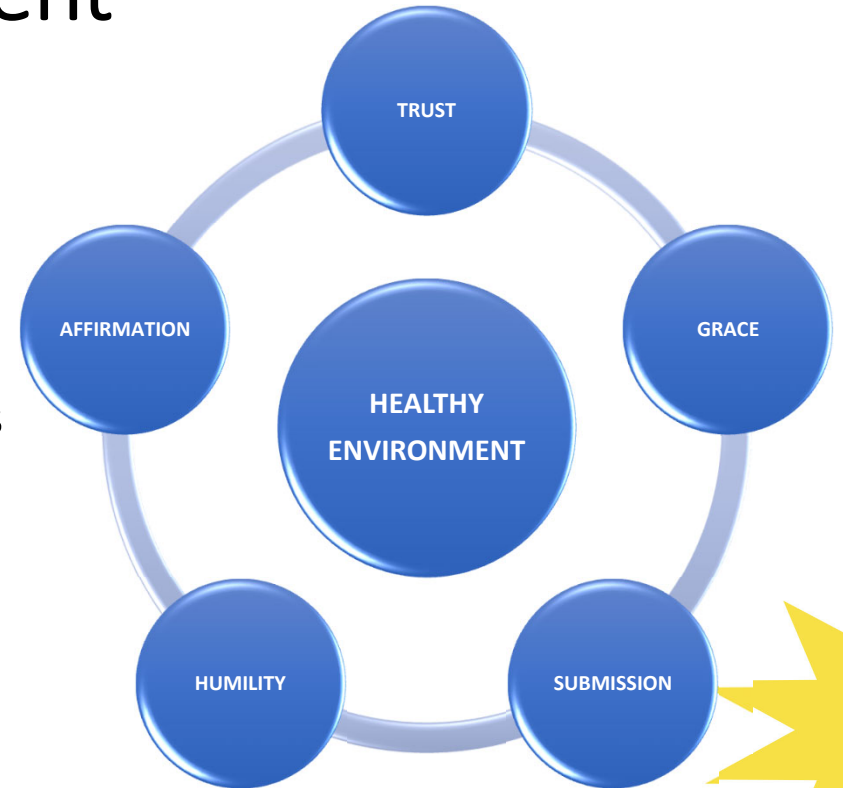
# Identify Your Role

After determining what type of small group to lead, there are primarily two approaches you can take on how you want to participate in your small group's growth plan:

- **Gate Keeper Approach** – When you select a specific study or topic that you are passionate about and want to lead a small group on that same study/topic over and over. Once the study is complete, you encourage the group members to move on to a new group and then begin leading it again with new members.
- **Shepherd Approach** – When you lead a small group and decide to keep the same members to go through different studies and topics together. You basically decide to “do life together” with your group members and walk the journey of becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus together.

# Setting a Healthy Environment

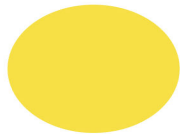
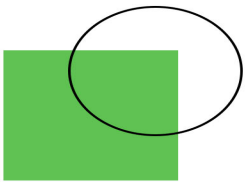
- **Trust:** Be intentional about being dependable, transparent, and honest.
- **Grace:** Make sure your group is a place where you treat others better than they deserve to be treated.
- **Humility:** Be like Jesus. Humility is His primary character trait. No one can be heard unless there's an absence of pride.
- **Submission:** This action will allow someone else to help you and others keep their commitment to God.
- **Affirmation:** This confirms identity. When we don't get this we end up affirming ourselves and start doing things to get others to notice us.



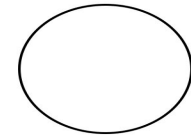
# Being an Inclusive Small Group Leader

As church leaders, we are called to share Jesus with everyone we come in contact with (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8). To do this, it is important that we understand that we are called to minister to a very diverse community and that there are certain steps we should take to intentionally show love to our neighbors who may view the world differently than we do.

*“Dear [friends], let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions” (1 John 3:18)*



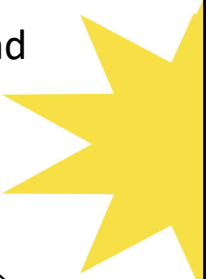
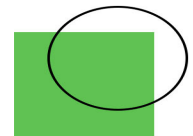
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# Ways to be Inclusive & Reflect God's Love

1. Create an open and welcoming environment that filled with God's presence.
2. Take the time to really get to know people in your small group and within our church family.
  - As you build relationships, you will find that we have more in common than not
  - Take opportunities to celebrate other cultures and have a deeper understanding of others' concerns.
3. Be considerate of the things you say.
  - People in our community are attracted to our church family because the Holy Spirit is with us. Therefore, we must be careful about the stories we share (Ecclesiastes 3) and the assumptions we make.
4. Grow your circle.
  - Be intentional about creating a small group that is as diverse as our church.
  - Approach people in the lobby; get to know someone different and invite them to your group.
5. Consider being led by another Love Church small group leader who has a different background than you.
  - This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about others in your church family who may have a different perspective than you.





# Managing Your Group

Register Your Group at <https://welovechurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/286003>

## Access Planning Center Online (PCO)

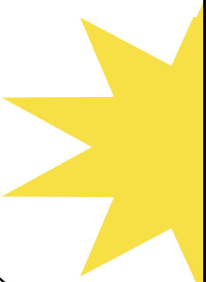
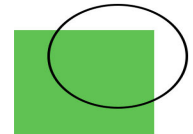
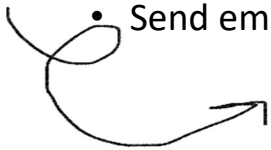
- <https://groups.planningcenteronline.com/>
  - Enter your email address and password.
  - If you don't have a password or forgot it, use the "Need a Password?" link to set up or reset it.

## Manage Your Group in PCO

- Perform the following tasks in PCO to manage your group:
  1. Review requests to join and/or add members of the group
  2. Add your group meetings to the Events calendar
  3. Record attendance after each session
  4. Modify your group settings as needed (i.e., update location address, description, photo, etc.)

## Close Out Your Group Once It Ends

- Send email to a Campus Director for it to be removed

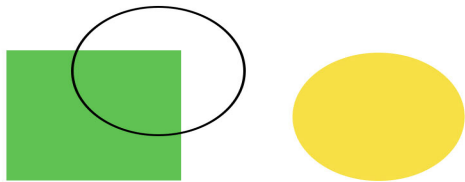


# Process for Reporting Issues

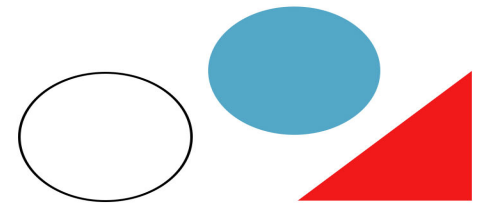
Remember that confidentiality is key!

1. Meet with group member to discuss concern(s)
2. If outside of your comfort zone, notify a Small Groups Campus Director of the concern(s)
3. Small Groups Campus Director will assist you with addressing the issue and/or consult with a Small Groups Central Director for additional assistance
4. For major concerns, the Small Groups Central Director may recommend having the group member submit a Pastoral Care & Support Form (<https://welovechurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/122293>)

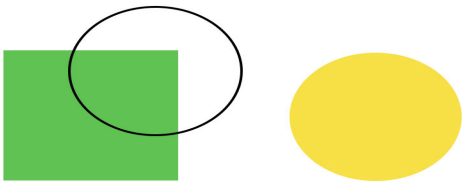
# Q&A



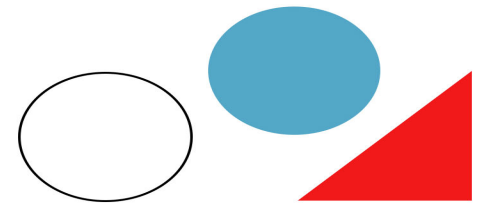
Small Groups | love.



# PRAY OVER LEADERS

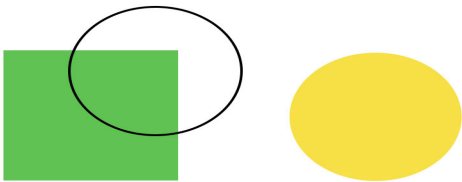


Small Groups | love.

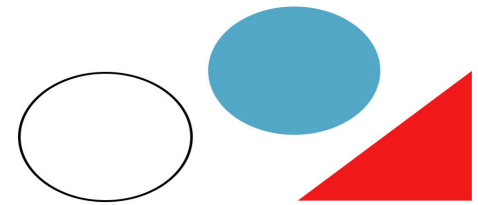




# LET'S CELEBRATE!



Small Groups | love.



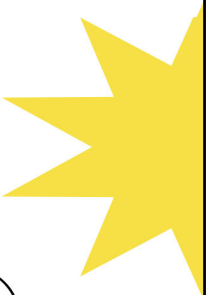
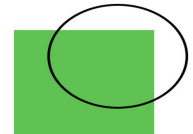


# Small Groups Video Montage

Let's turn our attention to the screen



Small Groups | love.



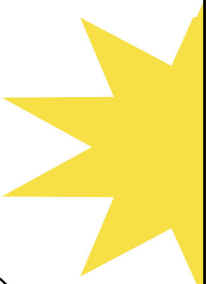
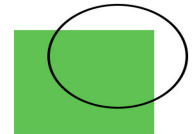


# Small Groups Summer Fun Challenge

Presentation – Julie Kieffer



Small Groups | love.





# Small Group Leader Recognition

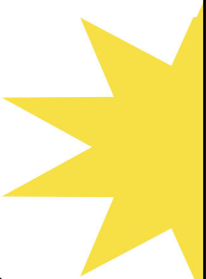
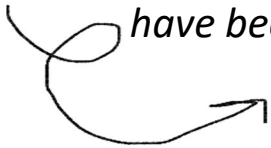
## Gainesville:

- Maha Qura, Growing Together With God

*Maha does a fantastic job leading the group. She contacts us during the week to see how we are doing and if there is anything we need prayer for, and prays for us. And also sends it in the thread for the rest of the group, so that they can pray as well. We also have events that Maha puts together so we get to know each other and relate to each other. And before our study happens. Maha leads a time to find out how each person's week has been.*

- Craig Noto, Freedom Brotherhood Group

*Craig created a place, through his testimony, that helped the men in the group open up about things they struggled with spiritually and physically. I grew in my walk with Christ through this group and it was all because Craig was led by God to lead a Freedom group. Without this group, I feel that this new season that I am currently in would not be as fruitful as it would have been had I not decided to.*



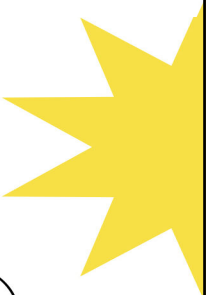
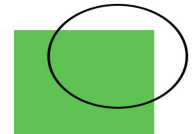


# Small Group Leader Recognition

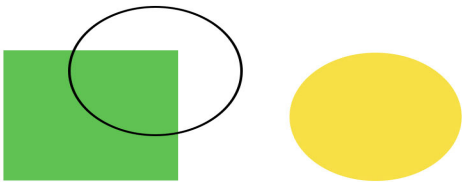
## Winchester:

- Rita Hester, GriefShare

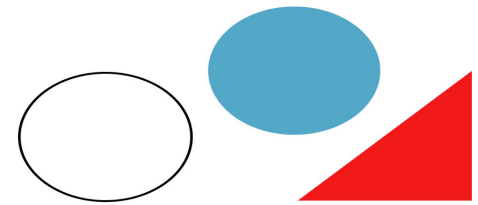
*Rita has served as our GriefShare facilitator for five years - co-leading at first, and then taking the reigns herself! In experiencing her own grief, she has a heart to walk alongside others going through their grief journey, praying for them and encouraging them along each step. During the pandemic she led GriefShare virtually--and when there was no one in Gainesville to lead a GriefShare group, she led a hybrid group while leading in-person in Winchester as well! Her love of God and love of people help her lead so well! She is such a blessing!*



# WHAT'S AHEAD?



Small Groups | love.



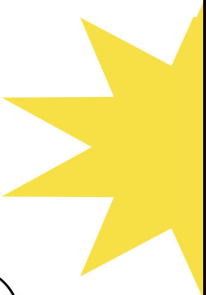
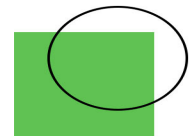


# Upcoming Events

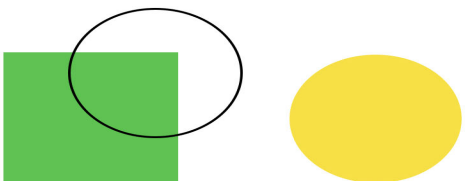
- Brotherhood Huddles: 08/23, 09/06, 09/20
- Small Groups Sunday – 9/11
- Fall Sisterhood Night – 9/25



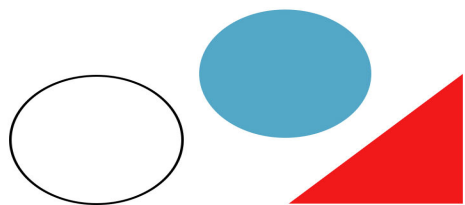
Small Groups | love.



# GET AFTER IT!



Small Groups | love.





# Small Groups Needed – Outreach Track

- Prayer group(s)
- Monthly “Love” group
  - Senior living centers
  - Umbrella blessing
  - Care packages for the homeless
- Rideshare group to bring people to church

# Small Groups Needed – Care & Support Track

- Marriage group(s)
- Parenting group  
(playdates/hangouts)
- Single Moms/Dads groups
- Support groups for those with aging parents
- Financial Peace University
- GriefShare
- Celebrate Recovery (Male co-lead)

# Small Groups Needed – Recreational Track

- Men's recreational groups
- Game Night group
- Foodies - go to restaurants or rotate homes
- Activities based- walking, running, sports

# Small Groups Needed – Discipleship Track

- Brotherhood & Sisterhood Freedom groups
- Brotherhood Huddle Leads
- Sisterhood Seed groups
- Biblical book/study groups