



Small Groups **Leadership** **Guide**



Dear small group leader,

Thank you for saying yes to helping others grow in their pursuit of Jesus Christ!

You are vital to our mission, which is to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus. Small groups are one of the ways we complete this mission. As a small group leader, you are enabling the people of this church to find community, become disciples of Jesus, find healing, and grow in their knowledge of His Word and their purpose in Him.

We have developed a small group culture that will allow you as a leader to meet everyone where they are and through the Holy Spirit, lead them further in their walk with God.

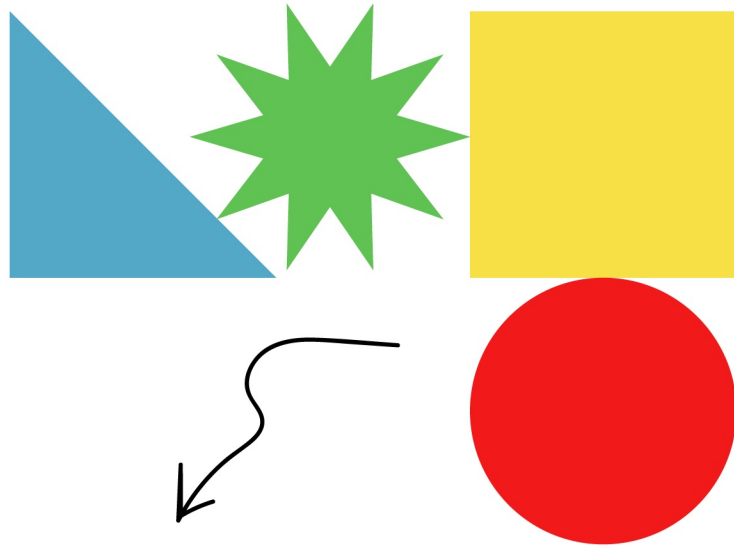
We have also created a system where you, as a leader, receive care and support. You will have a support team who are available to provide leadership, training, and encouragement. Your support team will be there whenever you need them so you never feel like you're doing this alone.

Let's dream big, live passionately, get creative, and get ready to see what God will do through you!

Love you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh + Brittney". The "Josh" is written in a cursive style, and the "Brittney" is also cursive. A small plus sign is placed between the two names.

Josh & Brittney
Lead Pastors



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The Heart of 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.

*All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching,
and to fellowship, and to sharing meals, and to prayer.
Acts 2:42 NLT*

Small Groups Provide Three Things

1. A place to connect

It's easy to feel alone in a crowd. Small groups are an open door into the life of our church family and steps on the road to becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus. When you're in a small group, you experience the love, acceptance, and strength of a Biblical community.

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

2. A place of support

Imagine having someone to call when you're discouraged, someone to pray with when you are doubting, and someone who can tell you more about what God is like. Imagine a loving community of people who notice when you're away, sharpen you when needed, and help you share your faith with others. Small groups provide that place of protection and support.

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 3:16 NLT

3. A place to grow

Small groups are a place where true discipleship takes place. They allow you to learn what you need to mature in your faith, to become a disciple: A place to be taught how to follow Jesus; A place to learn Jesus' words; A place to learn Jesus' way of ministry; A place to learn how to imitate Jesus' life and character; A place where you can encourage others in their pursuit of Jesus.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:5-8

The *Why* Behind Small Groups

To accomplish the mission of Love Church, there are five plays on your journey to becoming a disciple of Jesus:

1. Prayer
2. Sunday Services
3. Small Groups
4. Serving
5. Giving

All five of these plays are vital to your growth, but play #3 is the area of focus for this guide.

Life change happens in the context of relationships.

Each disciple must pursue the inspiration of leadership (seek vision), have accountability, find structure (follow a growth plan), and seek relationship.

It's the heart of God for us to be in genuine relationship with people. Relationships define us, grow us, challenge us, strengthen us, and bless us.

At Love Church, we believe our church family must grow larger and smaller at the same time; being a church of small groups not a church with small groups.

Small groups are the vehicle through which pastoral care takes place. They provide a setting to build dynamic relationships and facilitate individual spiritual growth. Small groups are a smaller family within a larger church family.

Small group leaders are an extension of the pastoral staff of Love Church.

Small groups are important for handling many of the pastoral care functions of the church. Providing the personal touch people need, especially in a crisis.

Our Framework For Small Groups

The *What* Behind Small Groups

Small groups are purposely designed to align with the mission of Love Church, to create fully devoted followers of Jesus. The framework for small groups is four specific tracks. With our standard and free-market groups landing under the Outreach, Care + Support, and Recreational Tracks, 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 at Love Church.

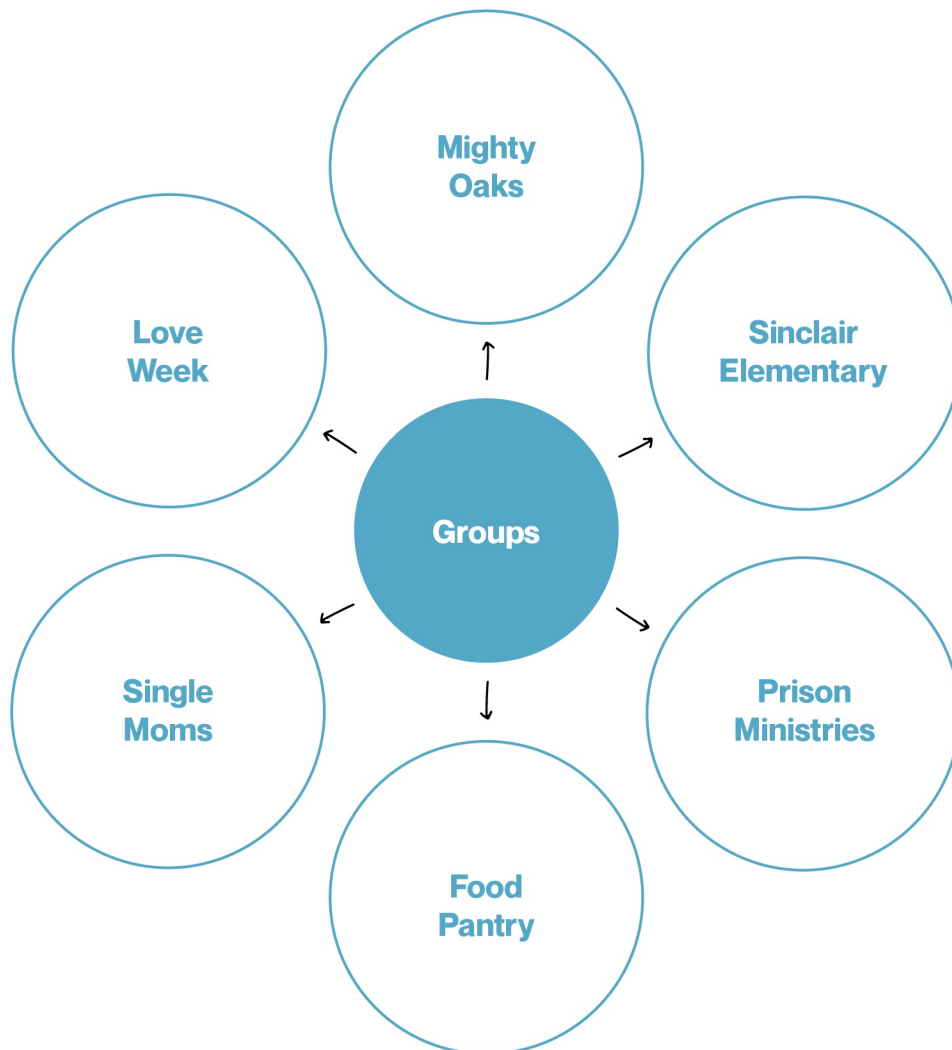


Outreach Track

Description: Small groups that 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).

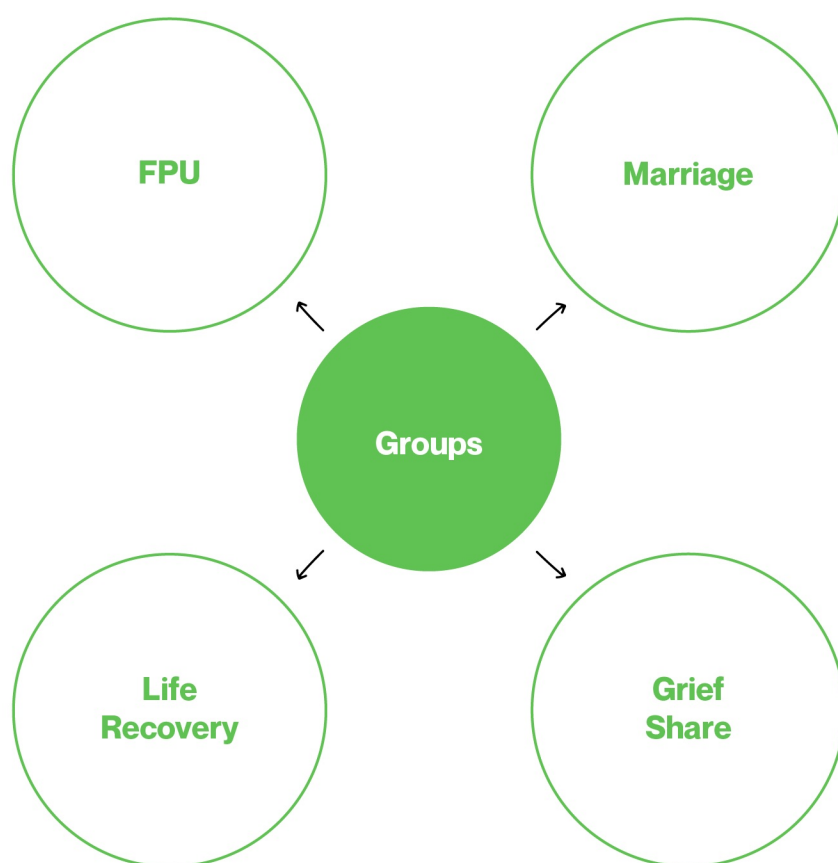


Care + Support Track

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 focus 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.

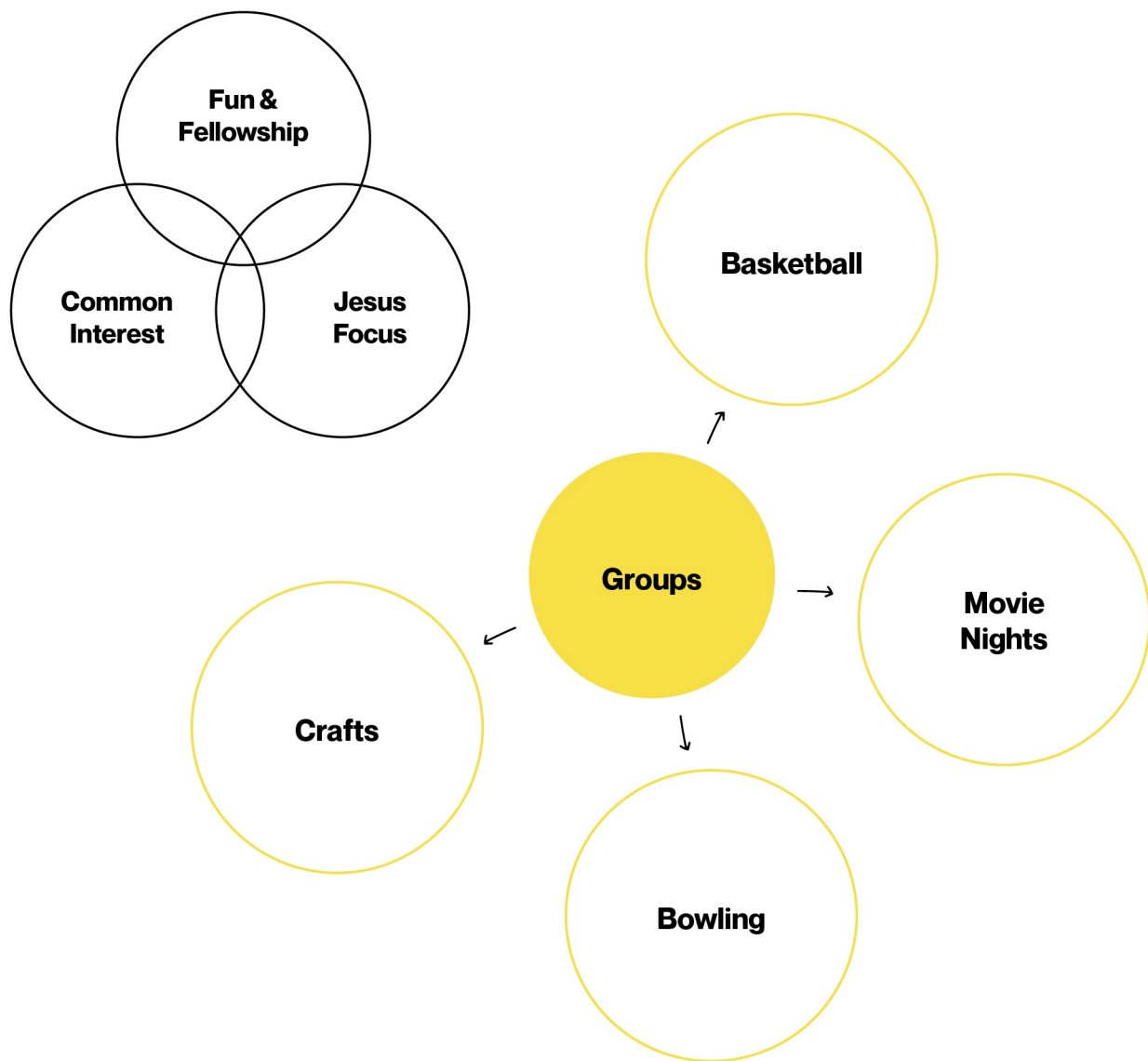


Recreational Track

Description: Small groups that are 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).



Discipleship Track

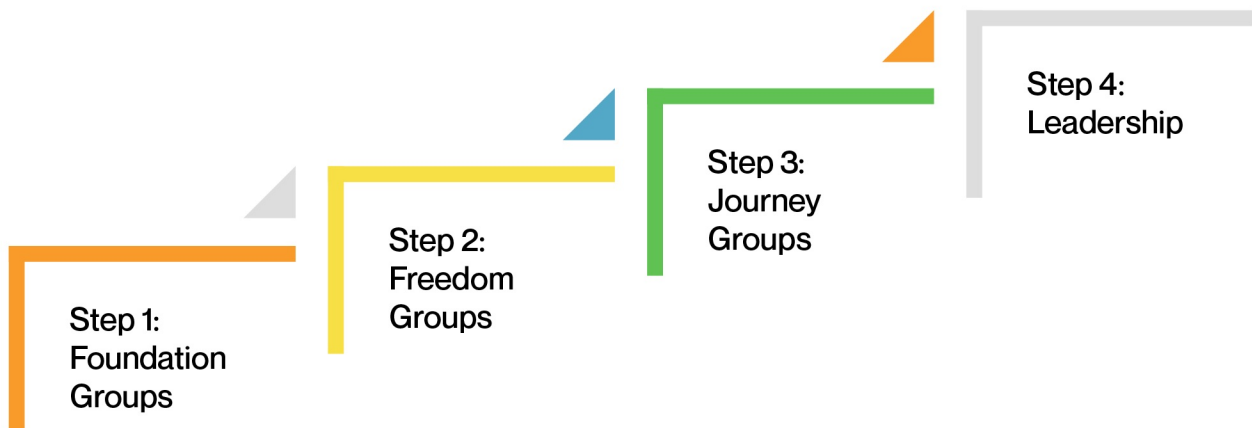
This track is designed to take each participant through a biblically-based 4-step process toward becoming a more mature, fully devoted follower of Jesus. It is geared to allow small groups to be more intentional about growing one's relationship with God and being led by the Holy Spirit.

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.

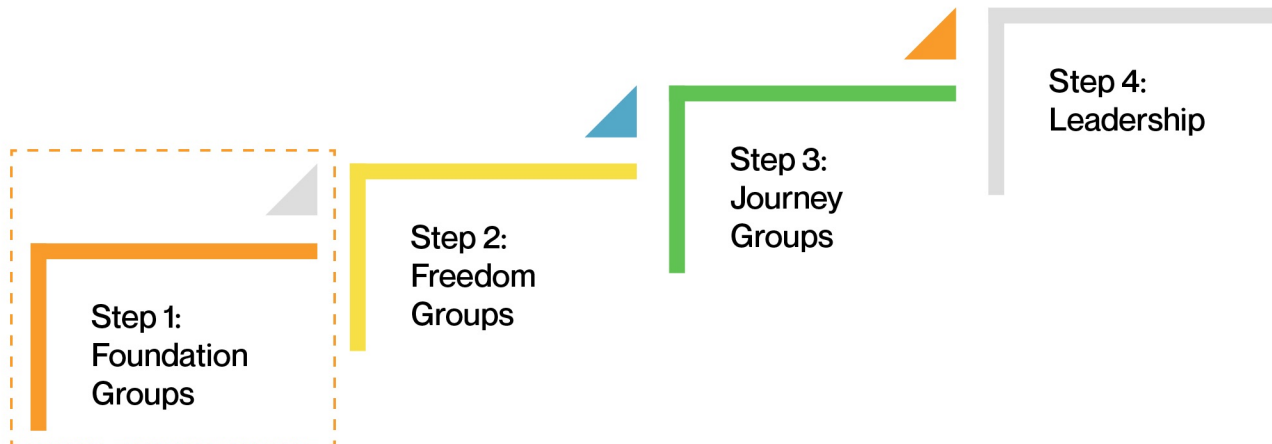


Step 1: Foundation Groups

Description: 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.

Who can join? Anyone

Who can lead? Leaders who've completed Step 2 of the Discipleship Track.

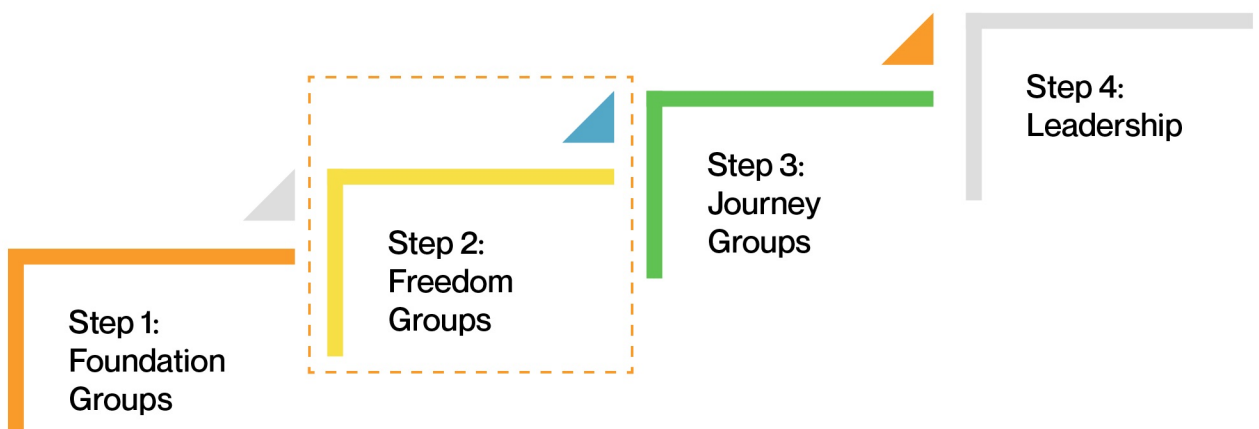


Step 2: Freedom Groups

Description: Small groups that are designed to equip you to live the victorious and abundant life Christ came to give you. Freedom groups build on the foundation of your faith in Christ to help you embrace the truth of God's Word as it relates to your worldview, your past, your sin, your personal value to God, and your purpose in His Kingdom. This group will help you remove every obstacle to intimacy with God and walk in true freedom.

Who can join? Anyone

Who can lead? Leaders who've completed Step 2 of the Discipleship Track and Freedom Leader Training.

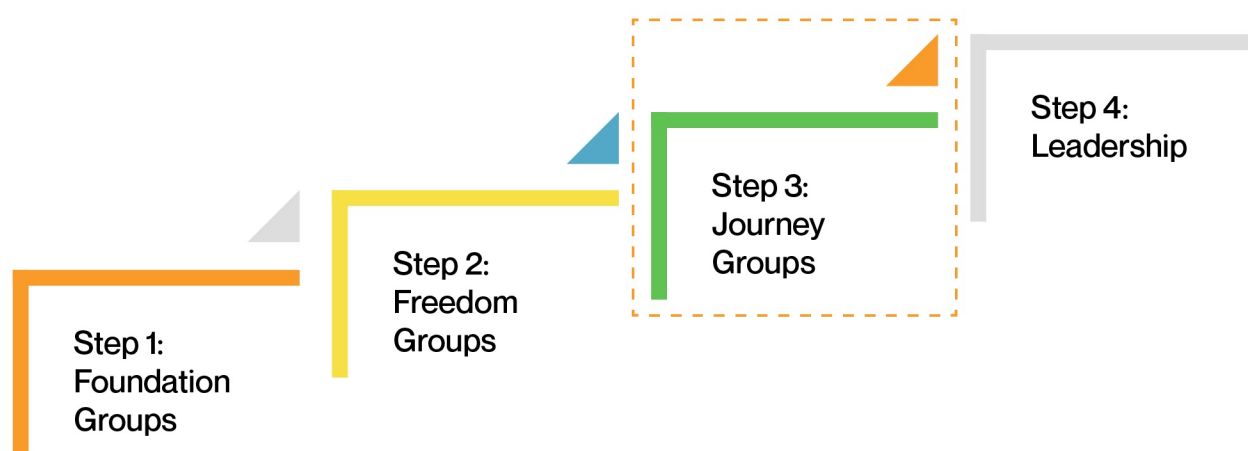


Step 3: Journey Groups

Description: Small groups that are 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 available in our small group library.

Who can join? Participants who've completed Step 2 of the Discipleship Track.

Who can lead? Leaders who've completed Step 2 of the Discipleship Track.

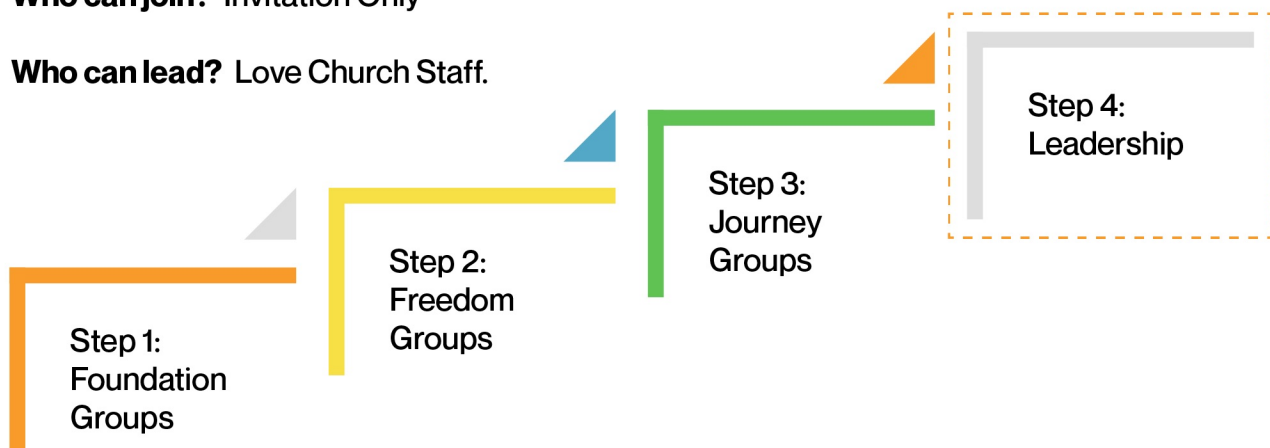


Step 4: Leadership

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

Who can join? Invitation Only

Who can lead? Love Church Staff.



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 Brotherhood and Sisterhood.

Brotherhood and Sisterhood are sub-communities within the existing small group communities that:

- Allow 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.

- Both offer 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.

Brotherhood



What We Expect From You

As a Love Church small group leader we expect you to be running all 5 plays of Love Church and be living out our church values.

Love Church Plays

- 1. Prayer:** Engage in weekly prayer
- 2. Sunday Services:** Regularly attend Sunday services
- 3. Small Groups:** Participate in or lead a small group
- 4. Serve Team:** Join a Serve Team
- 5. Giving:** Tithe regularly

Love Church Values

Heart After God: We are desperate for the presence of God and relentless about honoring Him in all that we do.

Humble Confidence: We are humble because it's not about us, and we are confident because it's not up to us.

Hard Work: We don't let the world out hustle the church.

Good Vibe: We are healthy, honest, positive, and fun.

Generational Leadership: We lead with integrity and longevity, passing it on better than we received it, so that our impact outlives us.

Generous Spirit: We believe that we can't outgive God because the more we give, the more we receive.

Grateful Heart: We are grateful in all circumstances because even if God doesn't give us anything else, He's already given us enough.

Small Group Leader Role

Your primary role as a small group leader is to assess the spiritual condition of your group members and help them move further in their walk with Christ.

Responsibilities

- Pray daily for everyone in your group
- Check in every other week with your Campus Coordinator or Director
- Provide an environment in which group members feel:
 - Confidentiality is being maintained
 - Grace is being given to all
 - Affirmed and supported
 - Patience is being extended at all times
- Provide pastoral care to your group members
- Encourage your group to serve during Love Week
- Manage members and attendance in Planning Center (PCO)
- Serve at the Small Group kiosk two Sundays a year

Love Church Membership

All small group leaders must be members and agree to the bylaws of Love Church. Please review and sign the membership covenant using the link below:

<https://welovechurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/218260>

Background Check

Love Church requires a background check for everyone who leads a small group as part of our efforts to ensure that safety is a priority for our church family. We believe this is important to implement because small group leaders are considered an extension of leadership in the church and offer a level of pastoral responsibility over their small groups. With such an important role, safety and precaution are always best practice!

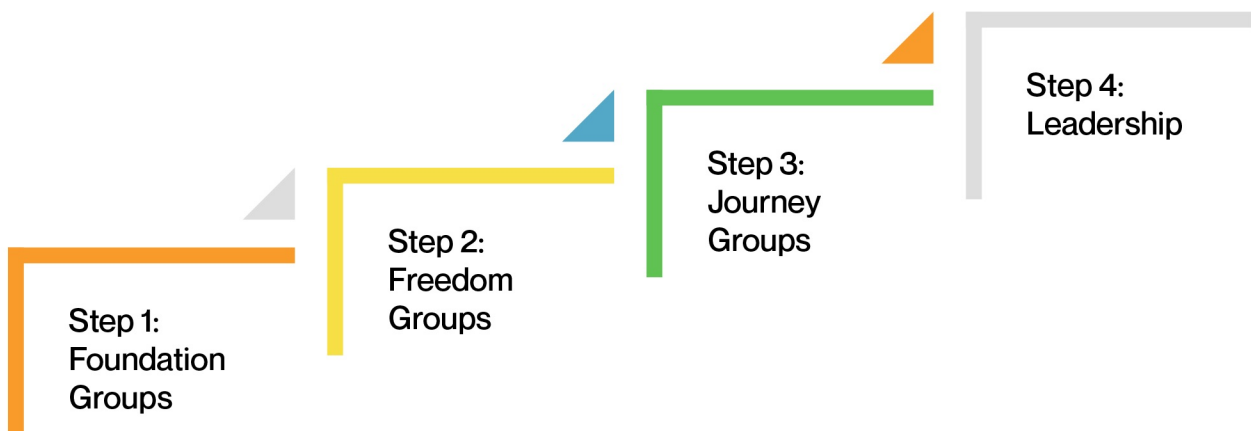
If you serve on a team at Love Church that has already required a background check, then that will meet the requirement as a small group leader too. If you have not had a background check (or if the one on file has expired), an email will be sent to you with a link to complete the form and submit it for processing. The process will review criminal records only (and not driver or motor vehicle records), and results are usually received in just a few days.

Please note that Love Church believes that everyone, regardless of their past, has the right to be fairly assessed for a role they may be qualified to hold. Therefore, if results come back with negative information, that does not automatically disqualify someone from leading a small group. In such an instance, an invitation will be sent to meet with leadership to engage in further discussions. This approach will allow the opportunity to supply additional details and make note of any positive actions taken to overcome what was found in the background check. All information will then be considered before a final decision is made on leading a group.

Emphasis on Discipleship

To accomplish the mission of Love Church, small group leaders must be intentional in making sure each group member is taking their next step in their walk with Christ.

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



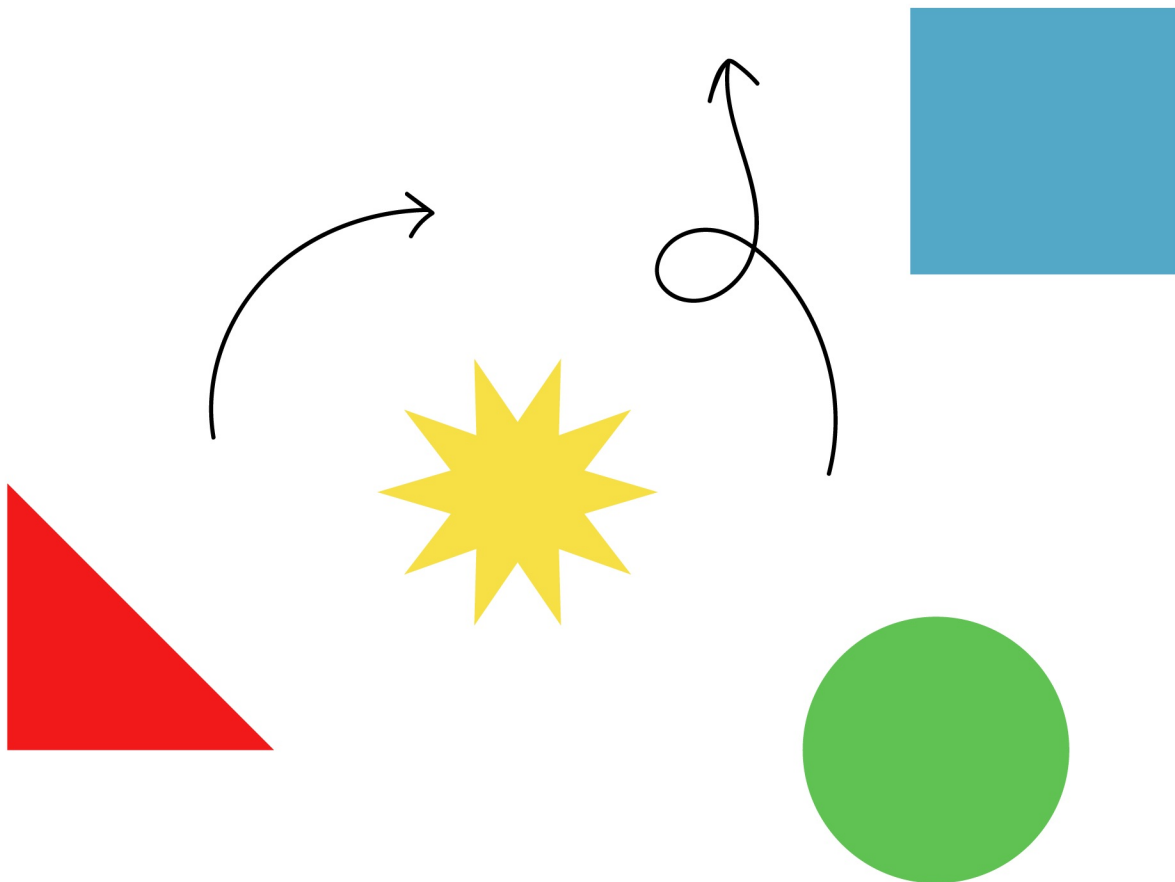
What Does That Look Like?

If you're leading a small group in the Care + Support, Outreach, or Recreational Tracks, encourage your group members to join a Foundation Group (Step 1) in the Discipleship Track when your group ends (or in addition to your group).

If you're leading a Foundation Group (Step 1) within the Discipleship Track, it's important to eventually encourage your group members 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 person for God to do everything He wants to do in each of us.



How To Launch A Successful Small Group

What, How, Who, When, and Where?

What Type of Small Group?

Lead a small group that you would like to attend. You'll be leading it, so lead out of what you are passionate about and will enjoy.

How To Lead

After determining what type of small group to lead, there are primarily two approaches you can take on how to lead it:

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.

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.

When To Meet

Small groups can meet anytime 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.

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:

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

Set A Good Environment

Some things to consider when choosing a location:

Cleanliness
Enough seating and space
Refreshments
Distractions minimized (noise, pets, etc...)
Comfortable temperature
Unlocked door so people can enter like they're family.

Childcare

Childcare is important to small groups, especially for family small groups. How to handle childcare is up to the leader(s), but it is essential that consideration be made regarding this.

Small Group Guidelines

Practical Rules

- Greet people with a smile and a sincere heart.
- Encourage them by bringing God's Word to their circumstances.
- Address them by name as you talk and pray with them.

Confidentiality

This is a must in all small groups as it allows people to be transparent, authentic, and open in a very safe environment. State this right at the beginning of starting your group, ask everyone to commit to it, and say it again periodically, especially when someone new joins.

Discussion Time

Avoid doing all the talking. Use the "70/30" rule:

- 70% of speaking should be from members of the group
- 30% from the leader.

What happens if you ask a question and no one answers?

- Silence is okay! It's giving people time to think.
- If silence continues, rephrase the question.

Having a Co-Leader or Leading in Three's

Leading in threes or having a co-leader for your small group is optional, but strongly encouraged. Leading in threes means to identify one of each following type people who can help manage the group logistics:

Facilitator: Prepares for meeting; Facilitates the discussions.

Host: Prepares a welcoming environment; Prepares/Organizes refreshments.

Communication: Sends out communication and reminders; Records attendance.

If leading in threes is not an option, then find a co-lead. The co-leader's role is the same as the leader's role in caring and praying for small group members; and can assist the leader with logistics as needed.

Being An Inclusive Small Group Leader

As a small group leader at Love Church, we believe that the Holy Spirit fills us with the power to live a life that honors God and draws others to Him (<https://welovechurch.com/about/>). As church leaders, we are called to share Jesus with all that we come into 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.

Unfortunately, there are times when Christian communities face challenges in applying these truths from biases we may or may not be aware of (<https://www.geneva.edu/about-geneva/diversity>). The Bible tells us that love is an action (1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 Peter 4:8; Romans 13:9-10). For us to overcome our prejudices and walk in love, we must acknowledge that we all have biases – whether conscious or unconscious – and work for a changed heart towards all people.

About Bias

“Bias is a prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another usually in a way that's considered to be unfair.” Biases may be held by an individual, group, or institution and can have negative or positive consequences. It is important to note that biases, conscious or unconscious, are not limited to ethnicity and race. Though racial bias and discrimination are well documented, biases may exist toward any social group or human characteristic (i.e., groups based on age, gender, religion, weight, and many more).

Unconscious biases are social stereotypes about certain groups of people that individuals form outside their own conscious awareness. Everyone holds unconscious beliefs about various social and identity groups, and these biases stem from one's tendency to organize social worlds by categorizing them. Fortunately, unconscious biases are not permanent,

because as Christians we are being transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2), and that transformation happens in the context of Christian community. There are practical steps we can take as small group leaders within this community to help each other combat these biases and let God continue to transform us into the people He has created us to be!

Ways to be Inclusive and Reflect God's Love

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

1. Create an open and welcoming environment that is 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.

How To Lead A Small Group Meeting For The First Time

Ways to Prepare

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you as you lead your group.
- As a reminder, email or call the day before your group meets.
- Create name tags for those you have called or emailed.
- Consider having food and snacks available.
- Create an inviting environment.

Typical Flow

- Fellowship (20%)
- Transition (5%)
- Topic/Study/Activity (70%)
- Prayer (5%)

Things To Avoid

- Business recruiting
- Tithes and offerings
- Unapproved speakers or material
- Controversial topics

Prayer: The Secret Sauce

At Love Church, we believe heart-felt prayer is key to leading people to Jesus, and essential to what we do as a church.

Prayer is the foundation. As leaders, it is vital that you set the tone for prayer. When you look to the example of Jesus, you help lay the foundation.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have - Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11, NLT

Intentional prayer covers, protects, and enlightens. It is important to spiritually prepare before group members arrive.

- Humble yourself.
- Invite the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to work in the hearts of those He is calling to be there, and prepare them to receive what He wants to impart.
- Pray that members will have a personal revelation and understanding of God's Word.

Prayer is a connecting point for ministry. Offer an opportunity for the ministry of the Holy Spirit to take place in people's lives.

Managing Your Group

Love Church uses a database called Planning Center Online (PCO) to set up groups for sign-ups online. Each small group leader is required to use PCO to manage their group during the semester.

Register Your Group

<https://welovechurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/286003>

- Complete the form to register your group.
- A Love Church administrator will set your group up in PCO and then notify you when it's available for sign-ups on the Love Church website.

Logging in to PCO

<https://groups.planningcenteronline.com/>

- To access Groups in PCO, you need to enter your email address and password.
- If you don't have a password or forgot it, you can use the "Need a Password?" link to set up or reset it.

Managing Your Group in PCO

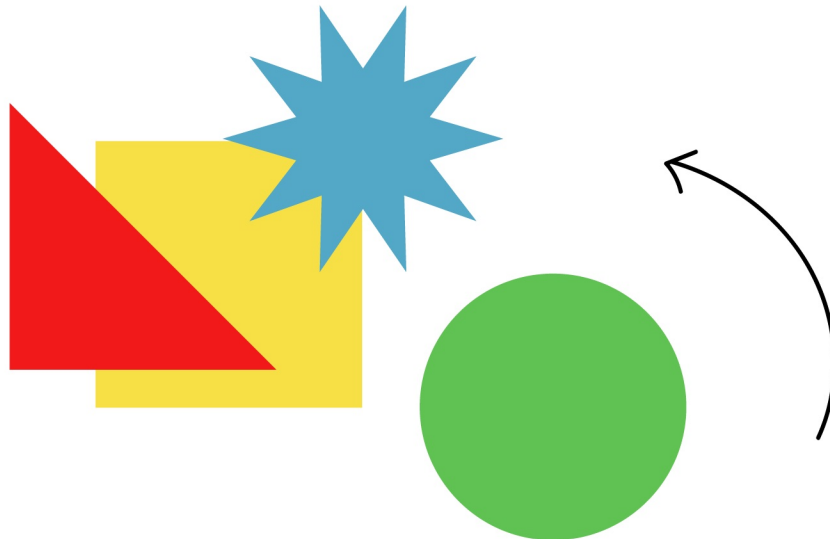
You will need to do the following tasks to manage your group in PCO:

- Review requests to join and/or add members of the group
- Add your group meetings to the Events calendar
- Record attendance after each session
- Modify your group settings as needed (i.e., insert address for location, modify description, change photo, etc.)

Help With PCO

Review the Planning Center Group Leader training video here:

<https://fast.wistia.net/embed/iframe/o3vn91kpgr>



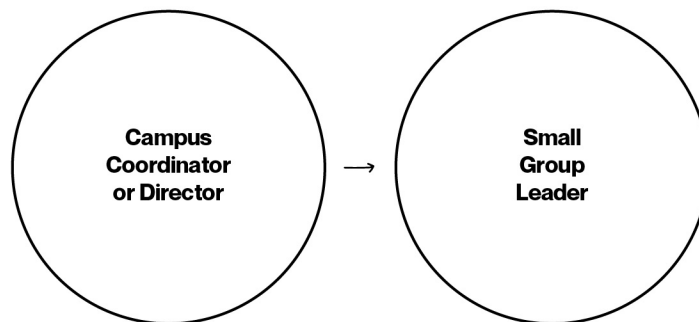
Your Support System

Each Small Group Leader Will Have:

- A Campus Coordinator or Director that will be there to answer questions, provide assistance, and offer suggestions on studies.
- A Campus Coordinator or Director who will check in with you frequently to ensure you are fed spiritually and cover you in prayer
- Annual leadership training events/rallies will be scheduled to develop and encourage you throughout the year.

We Care For Small Group Leaders By Offering:

- **Acceptance:** We will provide unconditional love and grace.
- **Accountability:** We will ask tough questions; help you keep commitments; offer words of caution and warning.
- **Affirmation:** We will offer words of encouragement and support.



Additional small group leader resources can be found online at <https://welovechurch.com/smallgroups>

Small Group Leader Resources

Life-Giving Scripture References

As a small group leader, it is helpful to know scriptures that pertain to different areas of life. Many times, simply reading the Word of God to people, praying with them, and allowing the Holy Spirit to bring conviction and truth to their lives, is the only role you will play in ministering to them.

The following are a few scriptures arranged alphabetically by subject, that you might find helpful in life-giving ministry:

Abortion

Children are a reward from God. Psalm 127:3

God created us and knew us in our mother's womb. Psalm 139:13-16

Addictions (alcohol, drugs, etc...)

Do not let sin control your body. Romans 6:12

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:19

Through Christ we can be set free. Galatians 5:1

Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:16

Adultery

See “Freedom” and “Sexual Immorality”

Anger

Anger does not achieve God’s righteousness. James 1:19

Don’t let the sun go down on your anger or give the devil opportunity. Ephesians 4:26, 31

Turn the other cheek. Matthew 5:28-40

We must rid ourselves of anger. Colossians 3:8

Anxiety

Don’t worry, pray. Philippians 4:6-13 Cast all of your anxiety on Jesus. 1 Peter 5:7

God will never leave you or forsake you. Hebrews 13:5-6

Backsliding

If we confess our sins God will forgive us. 1 John 1:8-9

Jesus can keep us from falling. Jude 1:24-25

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Repent and you will receive the baptism of the Spirit. Acts 2:38

Anyone who asks can receive the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13

Child Discipline

Fathers don't provoke your children to anger. Ephesians 6:4

Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft. 1 Samuel 15:23

Fathers don't frustrate you children. Colossians 3:21

He who spares the rod hates the son. Proverbs 13:24

Train a child well and as they grow old they will not depart from their training. Proverbs 22:6

The rod will drive folly from the heart of a child. Proverbs 22:15

Children's Responsibilities

Children obey your parents. Ephesians 6:1

Honor your father and mother that you may live long. Exodus 20:12

Youth, set an example for others. 1 Timothy 4:12

Condemnation

There is no condemnation for those in Christ. Romans 8:1

He who hears the word and believes will not be condemned. John 5:24

Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save it. John 3:17-18

Confession/Repentance

If we confess our sins God will forgive our sins. 1 John 1:9

When you keep silent about sin your body wastes away. Psalm 32:3

Confess your sins to one another and you will be healed. James 5:16

Cults

Test the spirits. 1 John 4:1

False prophets can deceive even the elect. Mark 13:21-23

Deliverance

Resist the devil and he will flee. James 4:7

We have the power to bind demons. Matthew 18:18

We can tread on the enemy and he cannot injure us. Luke 10:19

Where the Spirit is there is freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17

Deny Self

The greatest shall be a servant. Matthew 20:26-27

Those who come after Jesus must deny themselves. Matthew 8:34

A grain of wheat must die to bear fruit. John 12:24

Depression

God will restore the joy of our salvation. Psalm 51:10-12

All things work together for good to those who love God. Romans 8:28, 31

Give thanks in all circumstances. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Come to the Lord when weary and burdened and find rest. Matthew 11:28-39

God heals the brokenhearted. Psalm 147:3

Discouragement

Do not become weary in doing good, and you will be rewarded. Galatians 6:9

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, God saves me. Psalm 138:7-8

We are hard pressed but do not despair. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Divorce

What God has joined together let no one separate. Matthew 19:4-6

*A wife must not separate from her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.
1 Corinthians 7:10-12*

Wives respect your husbands. Husbands love your wives as yourself. Ephesians 5:21-33

Therefore as God's chosen people holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

Colossians 3:12-15

Faith

Faith is assurance of things hoped for. Hebrews 11:1

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrews 11:6

Jesus is the author of our faith. Hebrews 12:2

Faith without works is dead. James 2:17

Fasting

When you fast...(we are to fast). Matthew 6:16

On the day of your fast you have your request. Isaiah 58:3

The fast the Lord desires is for a man to be humble. Isaiah 58:5

Fear

When you die to the flesh you are free from fear. Romans 8:13-17

The Lord will protect you from evil. 2 Thessalonians 3:3

Do not fear for God is with you. Isaiah 41:10

The Lord is my light whom shall I fear. Psalm 27:1-3

The Lord is my shepherd. Psalm 23

Make the Lord your refuge and no harm will befall you. Psalm 91

God has not given us a spirit of fear. 2 Timothy 1:7

Perfect love casts out fear. 1 John 4:18

Fear of Man

Do your work for the Lord not to impress men. Colossians 3:23

If you do good works to please men you lose your reward in Heaven. Matthew 6:1

Trust in God, do not fear, what can man do to you? Psalm 56:11

Fear of the Lord

The fear of the Lord leads to life and being untouched by evil. Proverbs 19:23

When all is said and done, fear the Lord is the most important thing. Ecclesiastes 12:13

The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him. Psalm 25:14

Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth, honor, and life. Proverbs 22:4

Forgiveness

Forgive others and Satan does not have an advantage over you. 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

If you forgive others, God will forgive you. Matthew 6:14-15

Bless those who persecute you. Romans 12: 14

Fornication

See “Freedom” and “Sexual Immorality”

Freedom

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Galatians 5:13-26

Generational Curses

God is jealous and visits iniquity of fathers on children to 3rd and 4th generation. Exodus 20:5-6

Whom the Son sets free is free indeed. John 8:36

God's Expectations for Us

To do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before Him. Micah 6:8

These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word. Isaiah 66:2

Pure in heart and spirit see God. Matthew 5:3, 8

Keep His commandments, love Him and others. John 14:15

Grief

Jesus goes to prepare a place for us after we die. John 14:1-3

If we believe in Jesus, yet we die, we shall live. John 11:25

Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then, face to face. 1 Corinthians 13:12

Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4

Guilt

Confess and find mercy. Proverbs 28:13 All have sinned. Romans 3:23

God freely gives eternal life. Romans 6:23

There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1-3

The old is gone, the new is come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Healing

I am the God who heals you. Exodus 15:26 Jesus took our infirmities, by His stripes we are healed. 1 Peter 2:24

Ask anything of God according to His will, and He hears us. 1 John 5:14-15

We have authority to heal every disease and sickness. Matthew 10:1

God will restore your health. Jeremiah 30:17

The Lord forgives our sins and heals all of our diseases. Psalm 103:3

Holiness

Be holy in our behavior. 1 Peter 1:14-16

Be holy as the Lord Himself is holy. Ecclesiastes 20:22

Don't be conformed to the world. Romans 12:2

Pursue sanctification without which you will not see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14

Holy Spirit

Better when Jesus leaves and the Holy Spirit comes. John 16:7

Brings conviction of truth & will guide you to truth. John 16:8-13

Brings comfort. Acts 9:31

Brings wonderful things to the life of the believer. 1 Corinthians 2:8-13

Brings spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:7

Homosexuality

See "Freedom" and "Sexual Immorality"

Hope

For I know the plans I have for you, to give you a future and hope. Jeremiah 29:11

We wait in hope for the Lord, He is our shield, in Him we rejoice. Psalm 33:20

Hope deferred makes the heart sick. Proverbs 13:12

There is future hope for you and your hope will not be cut off. Proverbs 23:18

*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength and soar on wings as eagles.
Isaiah 40:31*

Humility

The greatest in God's kingdom are the humble. Matthew 18:4

Humble yourself and God will exalt you. James 4:10

Humility brings wealth, honor, and life. Proverbs 22:4

Humility brings abundant prosperity. Psalm 37:11

God gives His grace to the humble. James 4:6

Husband Responsibilities

Take care of your wife or your prayers will go unanswered. 1 Peter 3:7

Love your wife as Christ loved the Church. Ephesians 5:

Characteristics of a man of God. 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Honor the marriage bed. Hebrews 13:4

Husbands must fulfill their marriage duties to their wives. 1 Corinthians 7:3-4

Intercession

Intercession be made for everyone. 1 Timothy 2:1

Paul requests intercession on his behalf. Ephesians 6:19

Paul intercedes for others. Colossians 1:3

Jealousy

Jealousy and envy results in disorder and evil. James 3:16

Jealousy is worldliness. 1 Corinthians 3:3

We shall not covet the property of others. Exodus 20:17

Judging Others

We will be judged in the manner we judge others. Matthew 7:2-5

Judgment will be merciless for those who show no mercy. James 2:13

Jesus judged from hearing God, not from His own opinions. John 5:30

Loneliness

God's love for us is unfailing. Isaiah 54:10

God will never leave us or forsake us. Hebrews 13:5-6

Jesus wants to have fellowship with us. Revelation 3:20

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted. Psalm 34:18

Love One Another

Fervently love one another from the heart. 1 Peter 1:22

If you love one another you abide in the light. 1 John 2:10

If you love one another you are born of God because God is love. 1 John 4:7-8

Lust

Don't make provision for lust. Romans 13:14 Self-discipline over lust. 1 Thessalonians 4:4

Live by the spirit and don't carry out desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:16-18

Do not let sin reign in your body, do not give your body to sin. Romans 6:12-13

Marriage

They will become one flesh. Genesis 2:21-24

He who finds a wife finds what is good. Proverbs 18:22

Christ the head of man, man the head of the woman. 1 Corinthians 11:3

It is better to marry than burn with passion. 1 Corinthians 7:9

Marital Problems

I will walk in my house with a blameless heart. Psalm 101:2

As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

Get rid of anger, be kind and compassionate to one another. Ephesians 4:31-32

Husbands love your wives as yourself, wives respect your husbands. Ephesians 5:21-33

Wives submit to your husbands as unto the Lord, husbands love your wives as Christ loves the church. Colossians 3:18-19

Materialism/Money

Be content with food and shelter. 1 Timothy 6:8

The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. 1 Timothy 6:10

If you love the world the love of God is not in you. 1 John 2:15

*If have the world's goods and see a brother in need, the love of God is not in you.
1 John 3:17*

Don't be a slave to money. Mathew 6:24

Give God the first fruits. Proverbs 3:9-10 Trust the Lord in your finances. Proverbs 3:5

Be honest in the use of your money. Proverbs 13:11

God will meet all of your needs. Philippians 4:19

Give and it will be given unto you. Luke 6:38

Obedience

Through obedience we come to know Him. 1 John 2:3

If obedient, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. 1 John 3:21

You have a choice between blessing and curse, a blessing if you choose to obey the Lord's commandments. Deuteronomy 11:26-28

Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft. 1 Samuel 15:22-23

*Through obedience we receive the Holy Spirit, Jesus reveals Himself to us and abides in us.
John 14:15-21*

Don't just hear the Word of God, do what it says. James 1:22

Peace of Mind

Jesus said, in Me you will find peace. John 16:33

Because of our faith we have peace with God. Romans 5:1

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts. Colossians 3:15

Sleep in peace for the Lord is our safety. Psalm 4:8

Persistence

I've fought the good fight, I've finished the race. 2 Timothy 4:7

We will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Those who obey to the end will be given authority. Revelation 2:24

*To him who overcomes it will be granted their names written in the book of life.
Revelation 3:5*

Prayer

If your heart doesn't condemn you, ask what you wish. 1 John 3:21

Confidence comes from praying. 1 John 5:14-15

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

Prayer Shield

We are to pray and intercede for each other. Ephesians 6:18

Paul requests prayer on his behalf. Ephesians 6:19

Pride

Pride is an abomination to God. Proverbs 16:5

God is opposed to the proud. James 4:6

God will bring down the proud. Isaiah 25:11

Priorities

Seek first the kingdom of God. Matthew 6:33

Greatest commandment is to love God then love your neighbor is the 2nd commandment. Matthew 22:36-39

Greatest in kingdom of God are the humble. Matthew 18:3-4

Whoever wishes to be great must first be a servant. Matthew 20:26-28

Reap What You Sow

God is not mocked, you will reap what you sow. Galatians 6:7

The Lord gives to each according to his deeds. Jeremiah 17:9

Reconciliation

God reconciled the world through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Before giving your offering be reconciled with your brother. Matthew 5:23-26

Principle of godly reconciliation. Matthew 18:15-17

Sabbath

If you turn from pleasure on Sabbath, God will bless you. Isaiah 58:13

There is a Sabbath rest for the people of God. Hebrews 4:8-10

Salvation

Whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. John 3:16

Wages of sin is death. Romans 6:23

No condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth. Romans 10:9-10

We are saved by grace. Ephesians 2:8-9

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling. Philippians 2:12-13

Sexual Immorality

Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22

It is God's will that you should be sanctified, that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Hebrews 13:4

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. 1 Corinthians 10:18-20

Soul-Ties

Do not associate with immoral brother. 1 Corinthians 5:9

Bad company corrupts good morals. 1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not associate with unruly brother. 2 Thessalonians 3:6

Do not be bound together with unbelievers. 2 Corinthians 6:14

Spiritual Gifts

God has given us different gifts. Romans 12:6-8

Don't neglect the gift you've received. 1 Timothy 4:14

Spiritual gifts are given to each of us. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

These are the gifts Christ gave the church. Ephesians 4:11-13

Great variety of spiritual gifts. 1 Peter 4:10-11

Spiritual Warfare

Pay attention to deceitful spirits. 1 Timothy 4:1

Fight the good fight of faith. 1 Timothy 6:12

Put on the armor of God. Our struggle is against spiritual enemy. Ephesians 6:10-18

No soldier entangles himself in everyday life. 2 Timothy 2:4

Humble yourself, resist the devil & he will flee. James 4:7

Be on the alert, the devil is like a roaring lion out to destroy you. 1 Peter 5:8

Submission to Authority

Submit to authority. 1 Peter 2:13

Obeys leaders and submit to their authority. Hebrews 13:17

Submit to governing authorities, for your good. Romans 13:1-7

Suicide

Take refuge in the Lord and He will defend you. Psalm 91:1,11,12,15,16

Jesus came to give us abundant life. John 10:10

Temptation

God will not allow you to be tempted above what you can handle. 1 Corinthians 10:13

We must master sin. Genesis 4:7

Crucify self and no longer be a slave to sin. Romans 6:6

Make no provision for the flesh. Romans 13:14

Take every thought captive. 2 Corinthians 10:5

Walk by spirit and don't carry out the desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:16

Tempted when carried away with our own lust. James 1:14

Let your mind dwell on good things. Philippians 4:8

Watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation. Matthew 26:41

Thanksgiving

Enter His gates with thanksgiving. Psalm 100:1

I will give thanks for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:13

Tithing and Giving

Test God to see Him bless you when you tithe. Malachi 3:8-10

Giving profits our account. Philippians 4:17

Honor the Lord from the first of our fruits. Proverbs 3:9

Give and it will be given unto you. Luke 6:38

God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Trials

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial. James 1:12

Afflictions produce eternal glory. 2 Corinthians 4:17

Do not be surprised with trials, they are for your testing. 1 Peter 4:12

After suffering for a while, God will strengthen and restore you. 1 Peter 5:10

Those who are loved will be disciplined. Revelation 3:19

Trust in the Lord

Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and God will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Put on the shield of faith. Ephesians 6:16 Trust in the Lord and do not be afraid. Psalm 56:4

Don't be troubled, trust in God, He will prepare a place for you. John 14:1

Who We Are in Christ

We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood. 1 Peter 2:9

He who overcomes will be given authority to rule the nations. Revelation 2:26

We are seated with Christ in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 2:6, 10

To those who receive Jesus, who believe in His name, they are children of God. John 1:12

Wife Responsibilities

Submit to husband. 1 Peter 3:1-6

Respect your husband. Ephesians 5:33

Adorn yourself modestly. 1 Timothy 2:9

Women should not exercise authority over men. 1 Timothy 2:12

Be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind and submissive. Titus 2:5

The wife's body belongs to her husband. 1 Corinthians 7:3-4

Keep the marriage bed pure. Hebrews 13:4

The wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. 1 Corinthians 7:39

Words and Their Power

Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth. Ephesians 4:29-30

Life and death are in the power of our words. Proverbs 18:21

We will be held accountable for every careless word. Matthew 12:36

Let speech always be with grace. Colossians 4:6

With our tongues we praise God and curse men, this should not be. James 3:9-10