

LEADER GUIDE

(Feel Free to Use This Each Week to Help you Navigate your Group Time)

Before the Meeting

- Read the week's content ahead of time
- Pray for your group members
- Don't aim to "teach perfectly"—facilitate conversation

Suggested Flow (60–75 minutes)

1. Welcome & Catch-Up (10 min)
2. Icebreaker (5–10 min)
3. Read Scripture + Teaching (5 min)
4. Discussion (30–40 min)
5. Practice Challenge (5 min)
6. Prayer (5–10 min)

Leader Tips

- Silence is okay—give people time to think
- Don't answer every question—let the group process
- Draw quieter people in gently
- Keep one person from dominating
- Focus on transformation, not just information

Encourage Your Group To:

- Be honest
- Listen well
- Keep things confidential
- Show up consistently

Weekly Check-In Question (Use Every Week)

"How did you practice last week's anchor?"

8 Week Class / Small Group Guide

ANCHORS: 8-Week Small Group Guide

Staying Anchored to Christ and His Church.

Life often feels adrift. But what if there was a way to make sure we don't drift through life? What if there were values and practices we could live out that would ensure we will stay connected, and anchored down through all life throws at us? Through this series and discussions the hope is to show you there is an intentional path we can go down to keep us from drifting. Because no one will ever drift into Christ's likeness. The process of becoming more like Jesus is one we must intentionally pursue.

Week 1 — Abiding

Scripture: John 15:4–5

Big Idea: Jesus: Our Anchor & Hope

Before anything we do, Jesus Himself is our anchor. Our hope isn't in circumstances—it's in Him.

Teaching:

Life is unpredictable. Emotions shift, situations change, and people fail us. But Hebrews reminds us that we have a *sure and steadfast anchor of the soul*. That anchor isn't a strategy or a value—it's a person. Everything else we talk about flows from being anchored in Jesus.

Icebreaker

"What's something in life that helps you feel stable or grounded?" Or "What's something you try to stay consistent with (habit, routine, etc.)?"

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus is your "anchor"?
2. Where do you tend to look for stability besides Him?
3. What causes you to feel "adrift" in life

How do we stay anchored to Christ:

Abiding means remaining, staying, dwelling. It's not about doing more—it's about staying close. Fruit grows naturally when we stay connected to the source.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does "abiding" look like in real life?
2. What distracts you from staying connected to Jesus?
3. How is abiding different from just "doing devotions"?

Practice:

Set aside 10 minutes daily to sit with God—no agenda, just presence.

Prayer

"Jesus, thank You for being our anchor in every season. Help us to trust You more deeply and place our hope fully in You. God, draw us close to You. Teach us to remain in You, not just visit You occasionally. Amen."

Week 2 — Next Generation is Our Responsibility Now!

Scripture: Psalm 78:4

Big Idea: We pass faith on intentionally by investing in those who are coming behind us.

Teaching:

Faith is never meant to stop with us. Whether through kids, students, or younger believers, we are called to invest in others.

Icebreaker

Who influenced you most growing up?

Discussion Questions:

1. Who invested in your faith journey?
2. Who could you invest in right now?
3. What holds people back from mentoring others?

Practice: Encourage or spend time with one younger person this week.

Prayer

“Lord, help us to invest in others the way You’ve invested in us. Show us who we can pour into. Amen.”

Week 3 — Community

Scripture: Acts 2:42–47

Big Idea: We grow best together.

Teaching:

Christianity isn’t meant to be lived alone. Real community includes honesty, support, and shared life—not just attending the same place.

Icebreaker

Do you prefer small groups or large gatherings? Why?

Discussion Questions:

1. What has been your best experience of community?
2. What makes authentic community difficult?
3. Where do you need to be more open with others?

Practice: Reach out to someone in the group during the week and pray for them.

Prayer

“God, help us to build a real, honest, and life-giving community. Break down walls that keep us isolated. Amen.”

Week 4 — Hospitality - The Way Others Encounter the Gospel

Scripture: Romans 12:13

Big Idea: We create space for others to belong.

Teaching:

Hospitality is more than hosting—it’s a posture of the heart. It says, “You are welcome here.”

Icebreaker

What’s the best meal or gathering you’ve ever been invited to?

Discussion Questions:

1. When have you felt truly welcomed?
2. What keeps people from being hospitable?
3. How can you be more intentional about including others?

Practice: Invite someone into your space (meal, coffee, group or conversation).

Prayer

“Lord, give us open hearts and open lives. Help us to welcome others the way You welcome us. Amen.”

Week 5 — Outreach - BLESS

Scripture: Matthew 28:19–20

Big Idea: We live on mission daily.

Teaching:

Outreach isn’t just an event—it’s a lifestyle. God has already placed you around people who need Him.

Icebreaker

Have you ever had a meaningful conversation with a stranger?

Discussion Questions:

1. What makes sharing your faith feel difficult?
2. Who has God placed in your life right now?
3. What does “everyday mission” look like for you?

Practice: Pray for One. Invite your One to church so they may come to know Jesus.

Prayer

“God, open our eyes to the people around us. Give us courage and love to share our faith. Amen.”

Week 6 — Reliance: We Pursue God’s Will Together

Scripture: Proverbs 3:5–6

Big Idea: We depend on God in everything.

Teaching:

Reliance means surrendering control. Instead of leaning on our own understanding, we trust God with direction, timing, and outcomes.

Icebreaker

Are you more of a planner or go-with-the-flow person? Are you flexible or rigid?

Discussion Questions:

1. What area of your life is hardest to trust God with?
2. How does prayer reflect reliance?
3. What does it look like to surrender control?

Practice: Start each day with: “God, I trust You with today.” or Quoting Psalm 23. Memorize Proverbs 3v5-6

Prayer

“Father, teach us to trust You יותר than ourselves. Help us to rely on You in every situation. Amen.”

Week 7 — Spiritual Formation

Scripture: Romans 12:2

Big Idea: We are continually in a process of transforming.

Teaching: Following Jesus is about becoming like Him. Formation happens over time as we practice habits that shape our hearts and minds.

Icebreaker

What's a habit you've tried to build (successful or not)?

Discussion Questions:

1. Where have you seen growth in your life?
2. What habits have helped you grow spiritually?
3. What is one area where God is shaping you right now?

Practice: Choose one spiritual habit to practice consistently. Try Several to Develop a "Rule of Life."

Prayer

"God, continue shaping us into who You've called us to be. Transform our hearts and minds. Amen."

Closing Reflection

- Which anchor has impacted you the most?
- Which one do you need to keep focusing on?
- What is one next step you will take moving forward?