



FRONTIER

Community Group Leaders Guidelines

Groups Overview

Throughout church history, the saints have gathered both in the temple and around the table. We believe that authentic community done at home is just as important as the Sunday church gathering for our discipleship and formation, as well as for the gospel to go forth throughout Pasadena and the greater Los Angeles area.

This is why twice a year (in the fall and at the new year), to all lean into a singular area together as a community. Though we only “officially” hold weekly groups in the Spring & Fall, the hope is that true relationships are birthed out of this time and people will continue to organically gather, connect, and share life all year long. The theme of our groups typically align with the larger vision God is highlighting for the church. Then, in community, we dive deeper into different facets of the topics and create space to share, worship, pray for, and encourage one another.

Gatherings

The purpose of our Community Groups is to pursue spiritual formation in authentic community. Ideally, people gather weekly with a community to learn through teaching, then spend the following days intentionally integrating the teaching into our lives through spiritual and practical exercises. The exact format/flow of the groups varies each season, but typically there will be a combination of the following elements:

- Scripture-based teaching + discussion
- Worship, prayer, & testimonies
- Community around the table

Housekeeping & Logistics

1. Please send weekly emails to your group with any relevant information and reminders. If you can include the following, even better :).
- Reminders of the week's scripture portion
2. Please check in with group members who don't show up and make sure they feel seen and welcomed to your community! This is especially important for visitors / newer members of our church who are seeking a safe place to land.
 3. Please feel free to provide refreshments on rotation and ask your group to take turns providing snacks each week.

4. For meals, always feel welcome to do potluck style! If you feel the grace to provide a meal for your group, wonderful, but no pressure at all to take that on.

FAQs

Q: What if our group is too large for discussion?

A: Most groups will be too large for intimate, meaningful conversations. After the main teaching, please always split up into smaller groups (ideally 4-6 people) for discussion, and perhaps even smaller (2-3 people) for prayer.

Q: What do we do about childcare?

A: If your group has many small children and you feel your time together would benefit from a babysitter, please feel free to split the cost of the babysitter among the families committed to the group. To keep the cost consistent and fair for all, it may be helpful for everyone to agree upon a set cost per week whether they can attend or not.

Q: What do I do when conversations become tangential?

A: Though some of the best conversations are the ones that happen organically, to make the most of the short time together, it would be best to gently redirect any tangential conversations back to the discussion points during the main teaching portion of the evening. A good way to do this would be to start on time and then allocate the last half hour or so to simply sharing life around the table. Or, if this works for your schedule, you can invite people to come a half hour earlier for mingling and chatting before the teaching begins.

Q: What do I do when someone dominates the conversation?

A: If one person is taking up much of the conversation, feel free to kindly and intentionally

open the conversation up to the rest of the group. You can use verbiage like, "does anyone else have thoughts on this?", or "would anyone else like to share their perspective, insight, or experience?"

Q: What do I do if some people don't share during discussion?

A: If people don't feel comfortable sharing in larger groups, that is totally fine! The most important thing is that people are engaging in a way that feels comfortable for them. has a chance to share in a safe setting.

Q: What do I do when the conversation becomes heated over theological differences?

A: This is one of the biggest challenges of leading a group! One of the best ways to preempt conversations from becoming divisive or heated over theological (or even political!) differences is to address the fact that we will not all agree on everything(acceptance is not contingent upon agreement), and that many disagreements are often secondary or even tertiary issues. If the conversation does start becoming tense, please feel free to diffuse the conversation by offering the person to have a lengthier conversation with Christian and Sue.

Q: How can I offset some costs?

We are so grateful for your willingness to serve our community in this way and do not want leading a group to feel like a financial burden! Please always feel free to split the responsibility of snacks, refreshments, and/or meals among everyone in your group. If any other unexpected costs arise, please reach out to us!