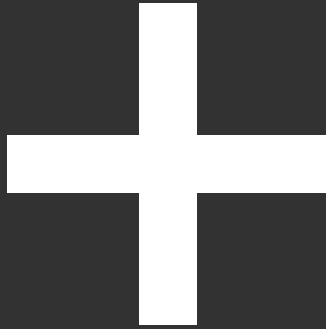


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GROUP LEADER  
FIELD GUIDE

THE ZERO COLLECTIVE



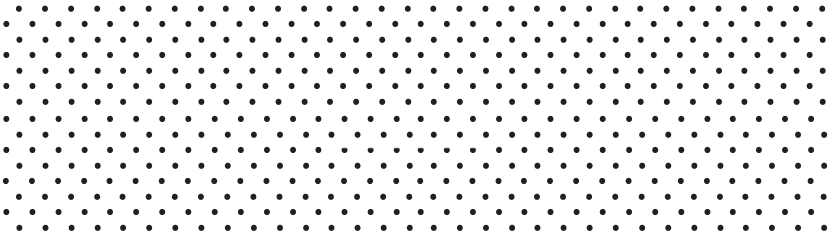
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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WELCOME ..... 02  
GROUP MEMBER INFORMATION ..... 04  
GETTING STARTED ..... 12  
MY LEADERSHIP INVENTORY..... 08  
PRAYER & VISION..... 20  
GOALS & PLANNING ..... 24  
CALENDAR..... 38  
COACHING JOURNAL..... 52  
PRAYER REQUESTS..... 68  
APPENDIX..... 76  
    HOW TO LEAD A BIBLE STUDY ..... 78  
    HOW TO LEAD PRAYER ..... 80  
    HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP ..... 82  
    HOW TO SET THE TABLE (HOSPITALITY)..... 84  
    HOW TO LEAD THROUGH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS ..... 86  
    HOW TO CHOOSE A MISSIONAL FOCUS..... 88  
    HOW TO LEAD WITH CHILDREN ..... 90  
    HOW TO USE PCO GROUPS AND RIGHTNOW MEDIA ..... 92





ZERO COLLECTIVE GROUPS

# WELCOME

Z E R O C O L L E C T I V E G R O U P S

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Welcome to the Groups Leader Field Guide. This resource was created to help you develop an intentional and workable plan for starting and sustaining your group for this season and beyond. It is made to be a walkthrough and aid for your leadership endeavor, through guided planning, prayer, and reflection. This field guide will also help you find a vision for your group, make goals based on that vision, and create steps toward accomplishing those goals.

We are so excited to witness how God uses your leadership to lead and disciple the group of people he has entrusted you to shepherd. We trust God will use your group in significant ways this season. We're praying for you and are with you every step of the journey.

T H E Z E R O C O L L E C T I V E  
D I S C I P L E S H I P T E A M



UNTIL ZERO PEOPLE  
REMAIN UNCHANGED BY JESUS.

# GROUP MEMBER INFORMATION

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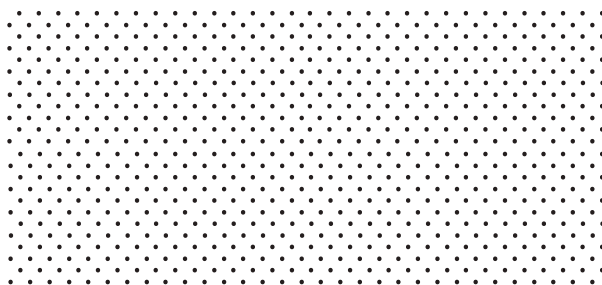
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# GETTING STARTED



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## WHY GROUPS MATTER

One of the primary reasons for Zero Collective Groups is that we believe spiritual formation, or life change, happens best in the context of community. Simply stated, groups of people gathering together for spiritual intentionality provides a highly attractive relational connecting process for newcomers, as well as a natural environment for discipleship and pastoral care. Healthy vibrant groups provide both challenge and encouragement for the spiritual journey – something everyone desires! In our fast-paced transient culture, there's just something life changing about connecting with other Christ followers, where it's a safe place to know and be known, love and be loved, and serve and be served. Beyond their obvious relevancy today, Groups were originally God's idea.

**GROUPS ARE BIBLICAL:** Community is a theme we see throughout Scripture. God has always been setting apart a people for himself! From the Old Testament Jews who gathered in synagogues, to the 12 disciples who shared life with Jesus for three years, to the early church who gathered in homes to worship, study the scriptures, share their belongings with one another, and exercise their spiritual gifts. Throughout the New Testament, groups were vibrant, life-giving communities, where relational evangelism was natural. Groups built up the church and were instrumental in reaching a lost world for Christ then, and they still do today.

**GROUPS ARE RELATIONAL:** God created us to crave a relationship with himself and with others in community. He just wired us that way. And when we gather together in Groups, we discover strength to weather the storms, wisdom to aid our tough life decisions, assurance that God is with us, and encouragement with accountability to stay the course.

**GROUPS ARE ORGANIZATIONAL:** As churches accomplish God's work, organization becomes a necessity to ensure that intentional, personal spiritual investment is occurring across the body of Christ. Groups ensure that this is done in a life-giving manner, so that everyone is cared for, yet no single person is carrying the burden of care for too many.

**GROUPS ARE TRANSFORMATIONAL:** Groups encourage us to grow spiritually while in relationship with others. They are a place to learn and apply the Word; to be cared for and to care for others; and to reflect the love, acceptance and forgiveness of Christ. When we do life together in the trenches, receiving the love, support and encouragement of other Christians, we are changed from the inside out.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead





## EXPECTATIONS OF A GROUP LEADER

The Zero Collective is passionate about developing the leader within you. We encourage leadership development and challenge you to live in a way that will glorify God, lead others well, and launch new groups to reach out to our community. Below is a brief snapshot of our Group Leader expectations. Our hope is that this will provide you with helpful Biblical framework to prayerfully consider as you step into leadership.

- Possesses a teachable spirit and is willing to learn.
- Senses the call of God to step into a leadership position.
- Committed to personally discipling and mentoring individuals within the group.
- Prioritizes time for preparing, receiving coaching, and leadership development.
- Pursues and exhibits the "Scriptural Characteristics for Leaders".
- Attends a Zero Collective Church on a regular basis.

## SCRIPTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A GROUP LEADER

Below are some Scriptures that provide the basis for the list of Scriptural characteristics of leaders.

Acts 6:1-7

1 Timothy 3:1-10

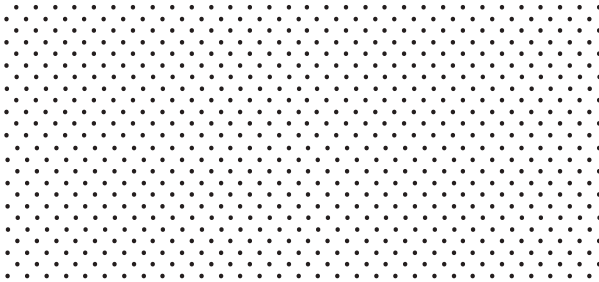
1 Peter 5:1-4

Titus 1:7-16

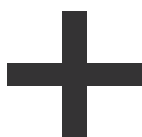
- Displays the Fruit of the Spirit
- Possesses practical common sense
- Has firm faith
- Above reproach/unquestionable integrity
- Good reputation/good standing
- Faithful in relationships
- Practices Biblical principles
- Not arrogant, hot tempered or overbearing
- Not involved in questionable money making
- A loving friend to believers
- A lover of what is good
- Self controlled
- Gentle, forbearing, peaceable
- Not a brand new believer
- Straightforward, not given to duplicitous talk
- Not prone to or engaging in sexual immorality
- Righteous, upright, fair
- Having an honorable testimony among non-believers
- Sets example of holy living
- Clings to the trustworthy message of the Word of God
- Competent to discern and share sound doctrine
- Motivated by the authority of Christ



# MY LEADERSHIP INVENTORY



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# MY LEADERSHIP INVENTORY

Use this space to record these different areas of your personal assessment. As you explore these areas, keep in mind they are simply tools to help you know yourself better and help you discover your path to further spiritual and leadership growth.

SCAN EACH CODE WITH YOUR PHONE OR USE THE ZERO COLLECTIVE APP TO TAKE ASSESSMENT SURVEYS.



**MY TOP 3 SPIRITUAL GIFTS**  
as listed in Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 28-30

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**MY TOP 3 SACRED PATHWAYS**  
as described in the book, *Sacred Pathways* by Gary Thomas

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**MY FIVEFOLD MINISTRY ROLE**  
as listed in Ephesians 4:11-12

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**MY ENNEAGRAM TYPE**  
as described in book, "The Sacred Enneagram" by Christopher L. Heuertz

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MATTHEW 20:26

But among you it will be different.  
Whoever wants to be a leader among  
you must be your servant.

## SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

(meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance, and celebration.\*)

What are spiritual disciplines I currently feel I have a healthy regular rhythm in?

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Which spiritual disciplines do I need to develop the most during this season?

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## DISCIPLING RELATIONSHIPS

Who is personally discipling/coaching me?

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Who am I personally discipling/coaching?

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\*Learn more about these disciplines in the book, *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster.

## INVENTORY DEFINITIONS

**Spiritual Gifts** are something every believer is given when we receive the gift of salvation. Just as the gift of salvation is by grace through faith, so are the spiritual gifts.

**Sacred Pathways** describe the way we relate to God, how we draw near to him. We can identify our sacred pathway and use practices which come naturally to that pathway as an easier way of connecting to God.

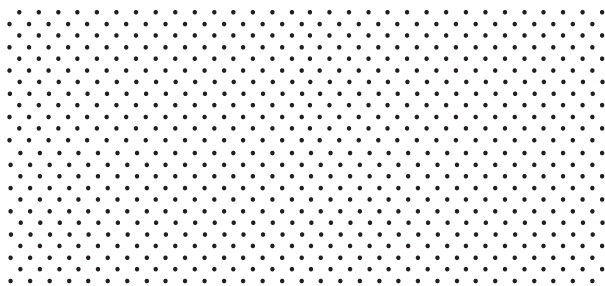


**The Fivefold Ministry** is a term referring to the five ministry roles of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher, found in the book of Ephesians. It's a Biblical blueprint we are given to equip people and grow the Kingdom.

**The Enneagram** is a system of personality typing that describes patterns in how we interpret the world and manage our emotions. The Enneagram describes nine different personality types and maps each of these types on a nine-pointed diagram which helps to illustrate how the types relate to one another.



# PRAYER + VISION



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## PRAYER + VISION

### START WITH PRAYER

The first step in preparation for leading your group is to align your heart with God's and submit your plans to him. Take some time to pray and seek God (alone or as a group) for why this group exists, how he wants to use this group, and how he wants to use you as a leader. Write down anything you hear from God below.

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Summarize what you heard into one sentence or statement. As you continue to listen to God, feel free to come back at any point to tweak this sentence. Let this be the statement that leads and drives you each week.

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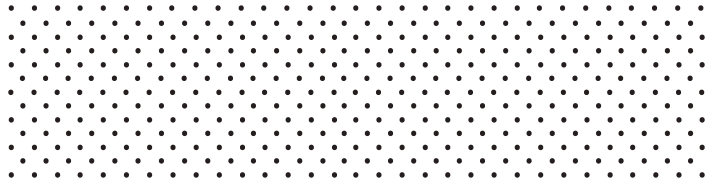
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## DREAM ABOUT THE FUTURE

Having spent time in prayer, allow your mind to dream and wonder about what your group could look like in the coming season. What excites you the most? What are some things you'd like to see your group accomplish or ways you want to see your group grow? Don't worry about the "how" yet. Just allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your passions and give yourself the freedom to DREAM BIG.

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### CONSIDER

WORSHIP • COMMUNITY • MISSION • LEADERSHIP • DISCIPLESHIP  
PRAYER+FASTING • SCRIPTURE • EVANGELISM • MULTIPLICATION

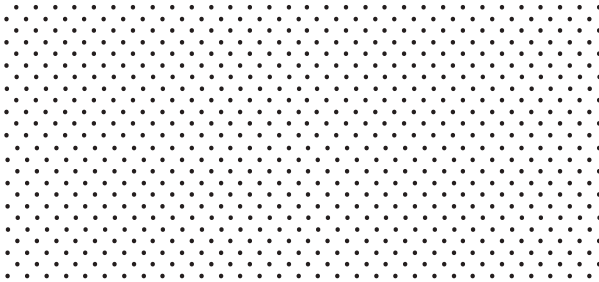
### PRAYER & VISION

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will  
establish your plans. - PROVERBS 16:3





# GOALS + PLANNING



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## SET YOUR FIRST GOAL

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Use the following steps to plan your first season goal. First, identify your bigger season goal, then break it down into 3 steps to help you achieve that larger goal. Examples of goals may include: recruit new members, increase member attendance/engagement, memorize Scripture together, implement worship in your group, start a new weekly community rhythm, develop new coaching relationships, do Home Church together, fundraise for a cause, do a service project/initiative, identify a missional focus, go on a mission trip together, host or attend a community event, or multiply your group.



# SEASON GOAL 1

What is the first major goal you'd like to work toward?

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SPECIFIC     MEASURABLE     ATTAINABLE     RELEVANT     TIMELY

What is your key motivation to see this goal through?

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STEP 1                      DATE:   /   /

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STEP 2                      DATE:   /   /

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STEP 3                      DATE:   /   /

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## TASKS + ACTIONS FOR GOAL 1

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List all the tasks necessary to complete these steps.

Who will own this task?

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
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C E L E B R A T E      How will you celebrate when you achieve this goal?

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GOAL 1



## SET YOUR SECOND GOAL

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Use the following steps to plan your second season goal. First, identify your bigger season goal, then break it down into 3 steps to help you achieve that larger goal. Examples of goals may include: recruit new members, increase member attendance/engagement, memorize Scripture together, implement worship in your group, start a new weekly community rhythm, develop new coaching relationships, do Home Church together, fundraise for a cause, do a service project/initiative, identify a missional focus, go on a mission trip together, host or attend a community event, or multiply your group.





# SEASON GOAL 2

What is the second major goal you'd like to work toward?

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SPECIFIC     MEASURABLE     ATTAINABLE     RELEVANT     TIMELY

What is your key motivation to see this goal through?

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STEP 1                      DATE:   /   /

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STEP 2                      DATE:   /   /

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STEP 3                      DATE:   /   /

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# TASKS + ACTIONS FOR GOAL 2

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List all the tasks necessary to complete these steps.

Who will own this task?

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C E L E B R A T E      How will you celebrate when you achieve this goal?

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GOAL 2



## SET YOUR THIRD GOAL

Use the following steps to plan your third season goal. First, identify your bigger season goal, then break it down into 3 steps to help you achieve that larger goal. Examples of goals may include: recruit new members, increase member attendance/engagement, memorize Scripture together, implement worship in your group, start a new weekly community rhythm, develop new coaching relationships, do Home Church together, fundraise for a cause, do a service project/initiative, identify a missional focus, go on a mission trip together, host or attend a community event, or multiply your group.



# SEASON GOAL 3

What is the third major goal you'd like to work toward?

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SPECIFIC     MEASURABLE     ATTAINABLE     RELEVANT     TIMELY

What is your key motivation to see this goal through?

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STEP 1      DATE: / /

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STEP 2      DATE: / /

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STEP 3      DATE: / /

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## TASKS + ACTIONS FOR GOAL 3

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List all the tasks necessary to complete these steps.

Who will own this task?

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C E L E B R A T E      How will you celebrate when you achieve this goal?

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GOAL 3

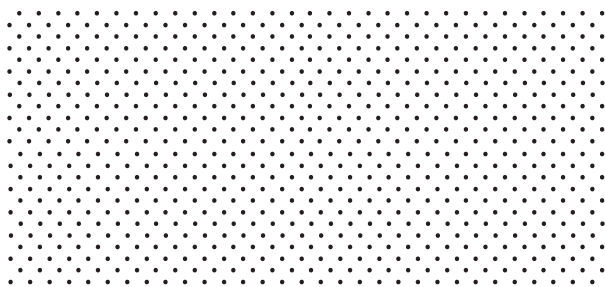
Life is short.  
Do stuff  
that matters

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	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

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# CALENDAR



MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT WILL YOU FOCUS  
YOUR ATTENTION ON THE  
MOST THIS MONTH?

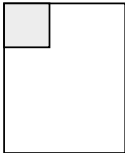
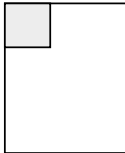
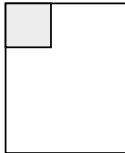
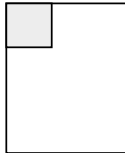
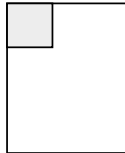
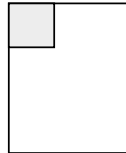
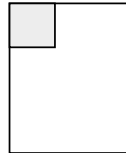
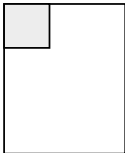
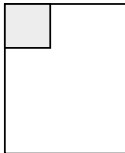
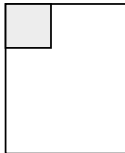
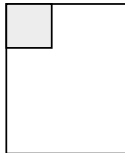
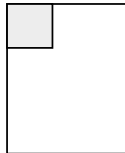
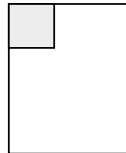
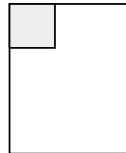
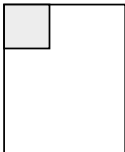
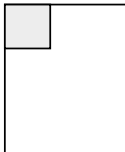
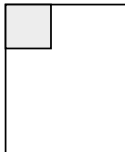
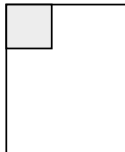
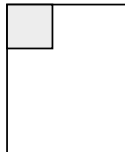
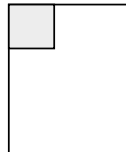
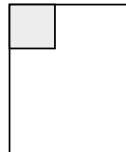
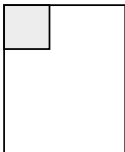
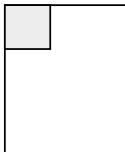
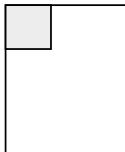
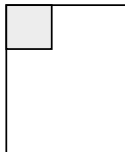
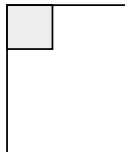
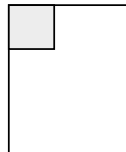
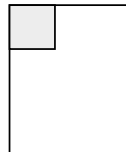
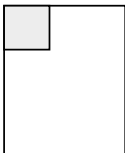
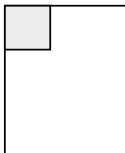
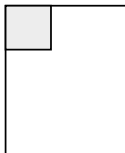
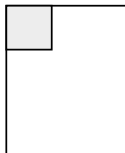
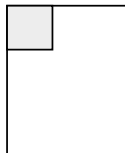
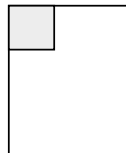
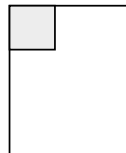
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

40 \_\_\_\_\_

HOW WILL YOU MAKE  
THIS MONTH MATTER?

MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
						
						
						

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO  
SEE YOUR GROUP GROW  
THIS MONTH?

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

42 \_\_\_\_\_

WHO DO YOU NEED TO  
INVEST MORE TIME IN  
THIS MONTH?

MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT NEW TERRITORY  
DO YOU WANT TO TAKE  
THIS MONTH?

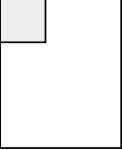
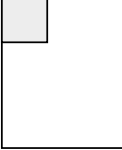
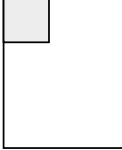
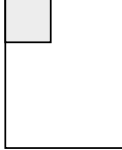
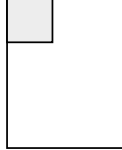
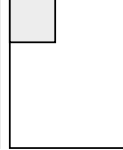
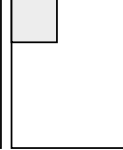
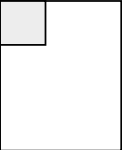
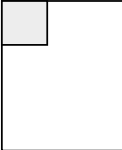
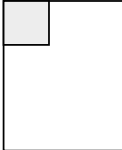
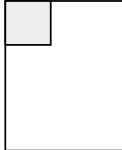
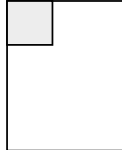
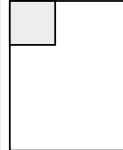
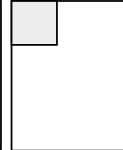
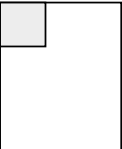
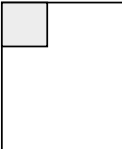
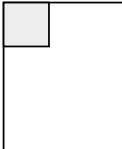
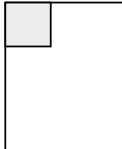
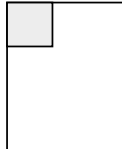
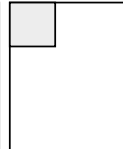
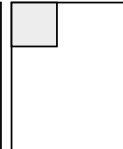
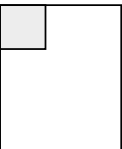
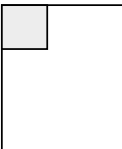
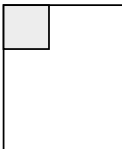
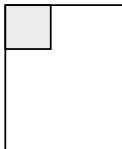
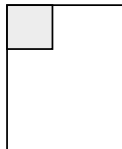
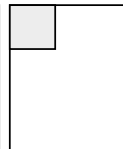
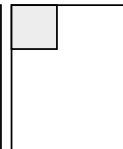
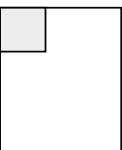
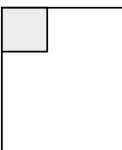
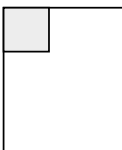
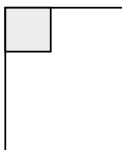
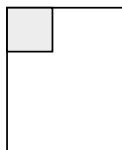
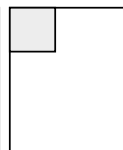
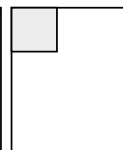
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
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44 \_\_\_\_\_

WHEN ARE YOU FINDING  
TIME TO REST AND  
RECHARGE THIS MONTH?

MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
						
						
						

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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




















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MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT WILL MAKE THIS  
MONTH DIFFERENT FROM  
THE MONTH BEFORE?

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
						
						
						
						

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

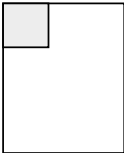
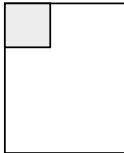
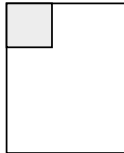
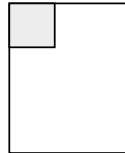
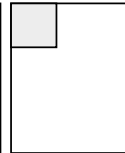
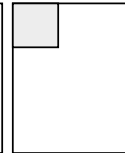
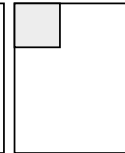
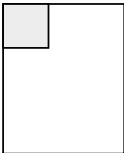
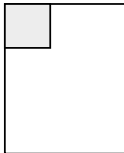
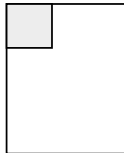
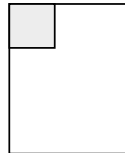
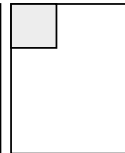
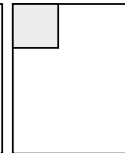
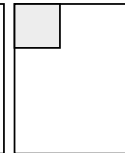
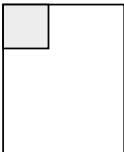
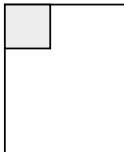
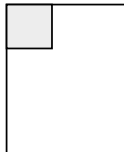
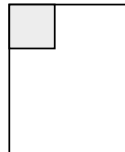
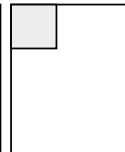
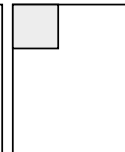
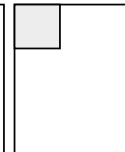
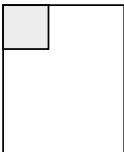
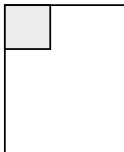
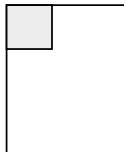
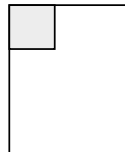
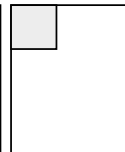
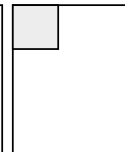
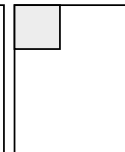
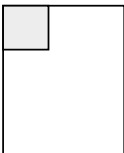
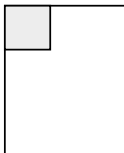
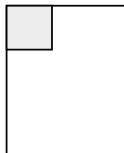
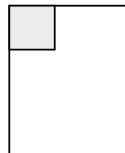
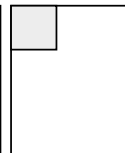
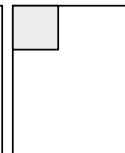
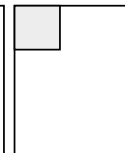
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HOW CAN YOU CHALLENGE  
YOUR GROUP MEMBERS  
THIS MONTH?

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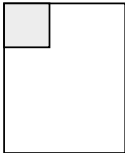
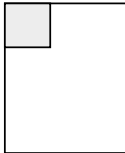
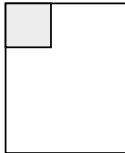
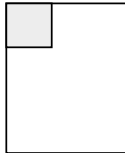
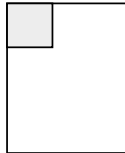
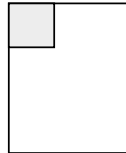
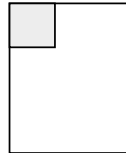
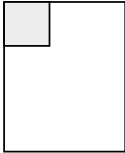
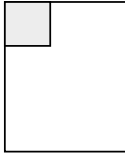
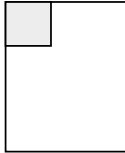
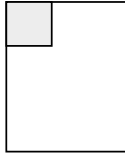
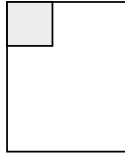
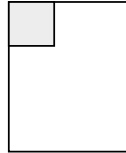
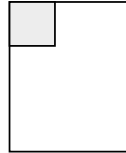
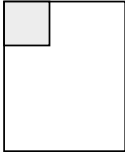
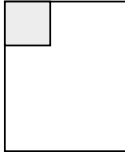
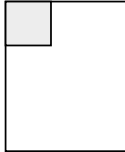
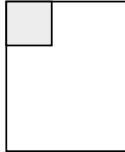
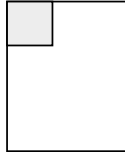
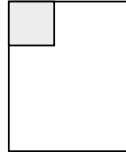
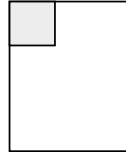
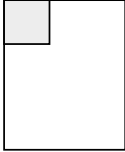
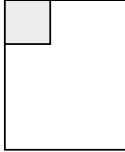
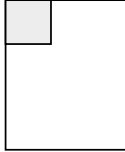
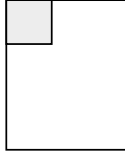
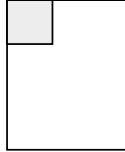
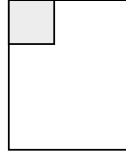
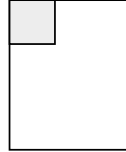
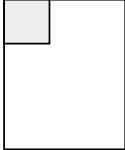
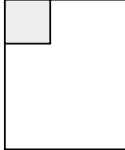
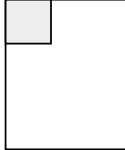
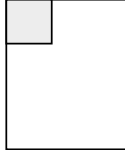
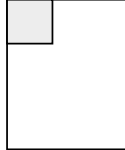
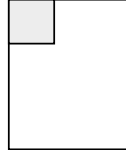
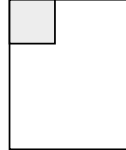
HOW CAN YOU SERVE  
OTHERS OUTSIDE YOUR  
GROUP THIS MONTH?

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

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WHAT IS AN AREA OF  
BREAKTHROUGH YOU HOPE  
TO SEE THIS MONTH?

MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

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MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT'S A SIGNIFICANT  
CHANGE YOU NEED TO  
MAKE THIS MONTH?

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HOW WILL WHAT YOU  
DO THIS MONTH SET THE  
STAGE FOR NEXT YEAR?

MONTH: \_\_\_\_\_

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NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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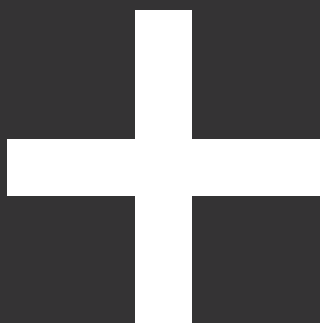


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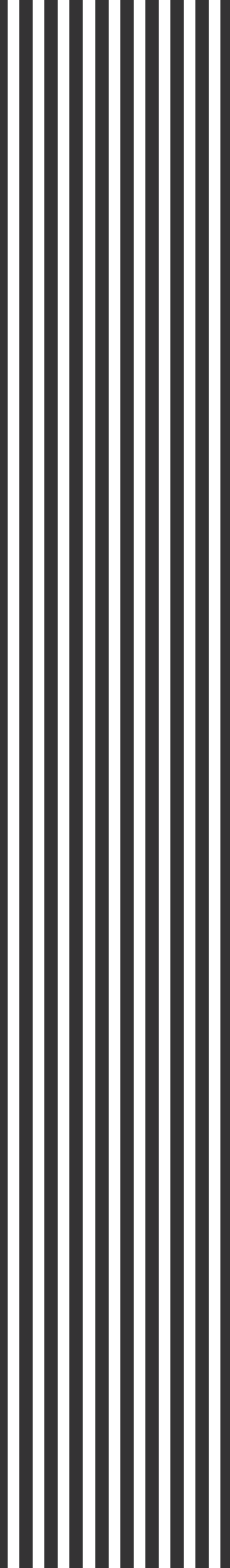
Herzlichen Glückwunsch zu dem ersten Lebensjahr  
deines Kindes. Ich hoffe, es wird ein  
glückliches und gesundes Kind sein.  
Ich wünsche dir und deiner Familie  
alles Gute und viel Freude bei der  
Erziehung deines Kindes.  
Herzliche Grüße  
Hermann

THE ZERO COLLECTIVE



DISCIPLESHIP  
JOURNAL

GR  
OU  
PS



# A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

One of the most important components to healthy Christian discipleship is accountability within the context of relationship. If discipleship is the mission, then relationship is the vehicle and accountability is the fuel.

As a leader of a group, you must ask yourself these two questions: "Who is discipling me?" and, "Who am I discipling?" Ideally, the person discipling you is someone outside the group you can trust and confide in, and the person/people you are discipling are individuals either inside or outside the group who you are willing to invest in.

We suggest identifying 2-4 people of the same gender to meet with regularly outside the group (weekly or bi-weekly). This will provide an environment to go much deeper than you're able to go in a group meeting, and will allow for higher levels of transparency, challenge, and accountability.



## DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

As you develop deeper relationships with these individuals, keep in mind the goal is not only to help them grow in their own discipleship, but also to challenge them to disciple others. As you pour into those people, they in turn will pour into others, which multiplies your impact exponentially as a disciple-maker.



# QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

Here are some questions to discuss during your regular discipleship sessions. Don't try to get through the whole list each week. Rather, just choose a few areas to focus on and let the Holy Spirit guide your discussion.

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## BIBLE READING

1. How many days did you read the Bible this week?
  2. How did you hear God speak this week? Share a journal entry.
  3. Did you have any questions from your reading?
- 



## ACCOUNTABILITY

1. In what areas are you experiencing victory over sin?
  2. What known sins have you committed since our last meeting?
  3. What temptations have you encountered and how were you delivered?
  4. What have you thought, said, or done and wondered if it was sin?
  5. How has the Holy Spirit been testing and growing you this week?
  6. Have you been angry, fearful, or anxious this week? Why?
  7. How have you battled sexual temptation or struggled with intimacy and how are you preparing to deal with it?
  8. Do you need to reconcile with anyone? Are you holding a grudge or envious of another?
  9. Who can you show greater love to in the week to come?
  10. Are there any other questions you would like to have asked each week?
- 

## PRAYER FOR THE LOST

1. Who were you able to connect with or serve outside of the church this week?
  2. Who are you praying would surrender their life to Christ?
  3. Who is someone you could potentially disciple in the future?
- 

Questions are taken from the book, *Banding Together*, by Jon Wiest. We highly recommend this resource as a supplement to your discipleship sessions.



Lined area for journaling, featuring horizontal lines across the page and a dark rectangular box containing the text "ZERO LOST PEOPLE" on the right side.





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ZERO GODS BEFORE GOD





Horizontal lines for journaling, with a dark grey box containing the text 'ZERO UNMET NEEDS' on the right side.





Lined writing area consisting of horizontal lines. A dark grey rectangular box is positioned on the right side, overlapping the lines.

ZERO UNCONNECTED  
IN COMMUNITY








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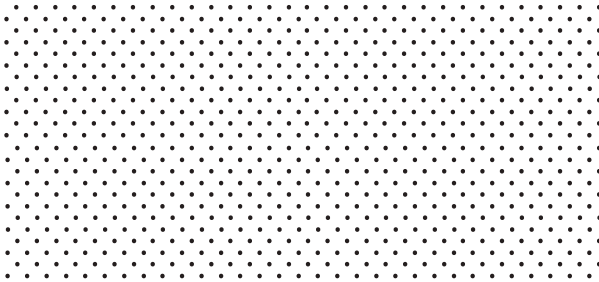
ZERO UNFULFILLED CALLINGS

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# PRAYER REQUESTS



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# PRAYER REQUESTS

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ZERO COLLECTIVE GROUPS

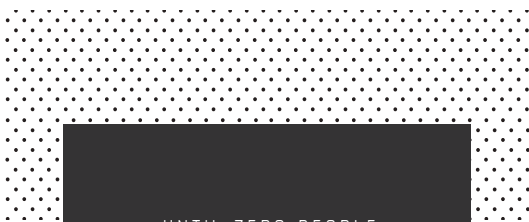
# APPENDIX

## Z E R O   C O L L E C T I V E   G R O U P S

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To further assist you as a leader and disciplemaker, we've curated some helpful "how-to" guides that should give you some ideas for leading through various situations. These are by no means the only way to accomplish these tasks, but should lay down the framework for you and provide some ideas to get you started.

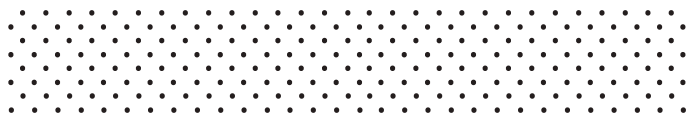


UNTIL ZERO PEOPLE  
REMAIN UNCHANGED BY JESUS.





# HOW TO LEAD A BIBLE STUDY



## SHOW UP PREPARED

- » Read the lesson, curriculum, texts, or questions ahead of time.
- » Look for themes that connect things together.
- » Highlight 3 or 4 questions that can provoke the most conversation that align with the same theme (not yes/no questions, but why/how questions).

---

## PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP

- » Spend some time asking God to direct the conversations for your group.
- » Pray for the needs and circumstances people in your group are facing that others might not be aware of yet.
- » Pray for wisdom to discern the Holy Spirit's leading during your group, and for courage to follow if it takes a different path than you anticipated.

---

## ASK GREAT QUESTIONS AND LET OTHERS DO THE TALKING

- » Your goal as a leader is to facilitate the conversation and draw out peoples' engagement with the topic.
- » Provide opportunities for quiet people to talk, and steer conversations away from those dominating the conversation.

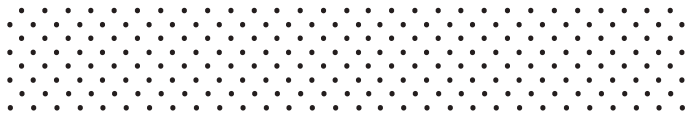
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## SHEPHERD THE MOMENT

- » When someone opens up and shares something personal or painful, thank and encourage them in front of the rest of the group. This makes it clear to the group that sharing something personal is safe in your group.
- » Look for opportunities to point to Scripture, rather than discussing personal opinions or perspectives
- » Don't be afraid to go off-script. Your job is not to get through all of the questions, your job is to take your group on a journey together to discover what God has for your group today. God's plans may differ from yours, so don't be afraid to follow the natural flow of conversation if one question generates a lot of excitement and conversation in your group, but do your best to guide the conversation back towards Scripture and answering the question, "What might God be saying to our group today?"



# HOW TO LEAD PRAYER



## OFFER GOD PRAISE AND ADORATION

- » Ask your group what they love about God.
- » Take the opportunity to give God praise and honor for who He is.

---

## CELEBRATE WHAT GOD HAS DONE

- » Ask if there is anything that someone would like to celebrate and thank God for this week.
- » Maybe a recent job promotion, a positive diagnosis, an opportunity to share about Jesus with a neighbor, a need that God met, etc.

---

## LIFT UP PRAYER REQUESTS

- » Ask if there are any prayer requests from the group.
- » This is a great opportunity for people to share what's on their hearts and what they're coming to the Lord for.

---

## PRAY FOR THE LOST

- » Ask if there is anyone specific the group can pray that God would soften their heart towards the Gospel.
- » Is there a family member, coworker, friend, neighbor, etc. who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus?
- » Pray for an opportunity to share who Jesus is with them.

---

## CONFESS AND RECEIVE FORGIVENESS

- » Ask if there is anything that anyone would like to confess and receive forgiveness. Is there something that's been bothering them for a while? Someone they've hurt? Something they've done they're worried about?
- » This is a great opportunity to invite someone to experience forgiveness by confessing sin to your group and then having your group pray for them.

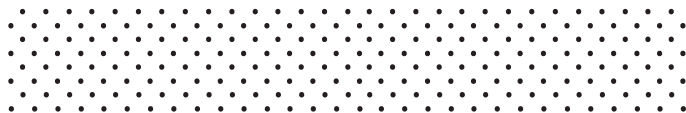
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## ALLOW OTHERS TO PRAY

- » This certainly does not need to be led by you, but it's an opportunity for others to contribute to one another.
- » It's also a great opportunity to come to the Lord together, to lay hands on one another, to pray for healing, pray for the lost, and pray for God to move.
- » Consider developing this as a regular rhythm to close out your group's time with one another every time you meet!



# HOW TO LEAD WORSHIP



## CHANGE YOUR WORSHIP MINDSET

- » Don't get stuck in the mindset that a weekend worship set led by a band is the only way to worship with others. Our God is a creative being, and he invites us to worship him in new and creative ways.
  - » Even if you don't have musical talent within your group, there are many different ways to worship that are just as meaningful!
- 

## USE MUSIC TO WORSHIP

- » Use the gifts of people in your group and incorporate music into your group. For example, have a couple people volunteer to sing or play guitar (or any other instruments) and lead this for your group.
  - » You could also play a YouTube worship song and sing together as a group.
- 

## READ ALOUD PSALMS TOGETHER

- » The book of Psalms is the original worship songbook! Many of our modern worship songs are rooted in these Scriptures, so don't be afraid to go straight to the source.
  - » Read in unison sections and chapters of Psalms and offer them as songs of praise and adoration.
- 

## TAKE COMMUNION TOGETHER

- » Incorporate bread and juice elements as you reflect on the Last Supper.
  - » Read through the Last Supper text in Matthew 26 or Luke 22.
  - » Confess sin (privately or corporately) together, pray together, and share this meal together.
- 

## GET OUTSIDE

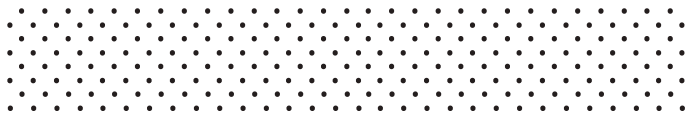
- » Find an opportunity to do a prayer walk in nature or through a neighborhood.
  - » Change the setting of your group meeting and experience the God of creation.
- 

## GET CREATIVE!

- » Continue to look for new ways to worship God and express your praise for him together as a group.
- » Invite your group to share ideas, collaborate with one another, and commit to making this a normal part of your rhythm of meeting together.



# HOW TO SET THE TABLE (HOSPITALITY)



## THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING THE TABLE

- » As you think about creating a space for your group meetings, make sure to provide an environment that is both comfortable and welcoming.
- » Location matters in the process of developing community, so whether you meet in a home, at church, or in a public place, make sure the table is set up well.

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## HOW TO BE A GREAT HOST

- » Always greet people as they come into your space where you are meeting. Invite them to know that they can feel at home in your space. If it's their first meeting, show them where they can find anything they may need, snack, beverages, bathroom, ect.
- » As you get to know those in your group, try to accommodate their needs in order to make them feel welcomed on a personal level. For example, if there's a food allergy in your group, make sure there's something they can eat or drink.
- » Consider providing light snacks or beverages, or provide a sign-up for others to bring them as well.
- » Start with an opening game or get to know you questions in order to break the ice and get everyone feeling comfortable before jumping into content.

---

## CONSIDER THE SIZE OF YOUR GROUP

- » A group size of 8 to 12 people allows for great diverse conversation and still allows for people to feel more comfortable to share and open up on a more personal level.
- » Whatever the size of your group, make sure your meeting space properly accomodates everyone.

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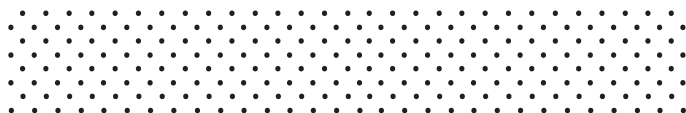
## DON'T FORGET ABOUT KIDS

- » If you have kids in your group, consider where they will be hosted during the group. Provide a supervised separate location within the space you are meeting in where kids can be kids in a safe environment.
- » See *How to Lead with Kids* on page 90 for further helpful hints to make parents and children feel more at home and comfortable.





# HOW TO LEAD THROUGH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS



## HAVING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

- » One of the most challenging scenarios you will face in your group will be leading a difficult conversation. Sometimes this involves your group and sometimes this involves a singular member or couple in your group. Regardless, here are a few keys to making difficult conversations count.
- » Communicate care. Conversations often implode in the first 90 seconds. Take the first few minutes with the person and communicate your love, care, and thankfulness for them. Create a safe space in the conversation that paves the way for the crucial conversation.
- » Be clear. "To be unclear is to be unkind". Ask God to give you the right words. He will. Write them down if you are nervous about sugarcoating or misspeaking. Be clear and honest.
- » Pray. Invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. If the person is dividing your group, pray for unity. If the person is critical of you, ask God to bring grace into the conversation. Do not take a problem to someone without praying about it first. Once you have prayed, pray some more.

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## MANAGING CONFLICT

- » Conflict is inevitable wherever you find people. In your group, you may experience conflict in a conversation or even spiritually. It is important to remember that biblically-speaking, conflict is not bad. However, when we manage conflict poorly, it becomes bad. Here are a few tips to managing conflict well in your group.
- » Tighten the circle. Often we include unnecessary parties in conflicts we face. If Person A has an issue with Person B, don't include Person C. Keep the circle closed to only the affected parties. This honors and shows love to the people in our group.
- » Be honest. One of the reasons we mismanage conflict is because we don't think we can tell the full truth to the other person. This is a myth. Jesus reminds us that the fullness of being like Him is shown by being a person of grace and truth. Careless words can hurt but honesty is more like painful surgery. In time, we are better for it.



NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

SOUTH AMERICA

BRAZIL

PERU

BOLIVIA

ARGENTINA

SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

# HOW TO CHOOSE A MISSIONAL FOCUS



## WHY HAVE A MISSIONAL FOCUS

- » In order to see ZERO lost and broken people in our world, defining your unique missional focus will help you discern who specifically God is calling your group to reach and invest your time in.
- » A missional focus is a significant element in discovering your group's unique role in God's Kingdom. It helps you discern a population to begin building a relationship with.
- » As you step into mission as a leader and discipler, it is essential that you lead your group to create and hone a clear missional focus that will inspire action.

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## DEFINE YOUR "WHO", NOT YOUR "WHAT"

- » The core of every missional focus is a WHO, not a WHAT. God calls us to serve people, not things or causes.
- » Identify a population to serve based on things like existing relationships, those affected by a similar issue, a specific geographical location, or those who are served by a local non-profit.
- » Try to be specific. A broad focus will lead to inaction, while really targeting who you will serve specifically leads to action.

---

## FIND A "PERSON OF PEACE"

- » A Person of Peace is a gatekeeper to the population you are trying to serve.
- » A Person of Peace provides insight into the real needs of the population, opens doors to serve that you could not open yourself, and give legitimacy in the eyes of the people you are serving.

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## CLARIFY THE REAL NEED

- » When you start thinking that you know what is best for the people you are serving, you've lost. You need to discover the real needs of the people you are trying to serve. NEVER assume you know what's best.

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## IDENTIFY YOUR "WHERE"

- » Where are the people you are trying to serve at? Here is one hint: They are most likely NOT at your church! Like Jesus, we need to serve people in their space. Find out where their space is and go there!

---

## DECIDE HOW TO DO IT

- » Deciding how to do it is the last piece of the puzzle! Most people short circuit the process and jump right to How and wonder why they can't think of anything! If you have your Who, Person of Peace, Real Needs, and Where, your How should be fairly easy to produce. That said, your How should specifically lay out how you plan to serve this population.

A black and white photograph of a young child, likely a girl, with a joyful expression, showing her teeth. She is wearing a dark t-shirt with the words "FUTURE LEADER" printed in large, white, outlined, sans-serif capital letters. She is also wearing pants with horizontal black and white stripes. The child is standing on a metal walkway or staircase with a railing, and the background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor or industrial setting.

**FUTURE  
LEADER**

# HOW TO LEAD WITH CHILDREN



## INCLUDE KIDS AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY

- » Groups are a great place for "extended family" to nurture children in walking with God. Jesus valued every child; so should we.
- » We should carve time where adults are together while kids can build relationships and learn with other children in the group as well as time for the community to be together as a whole.
- » When adults and children do come together, it is very important for the adults to be fully engaged with them so that they feel welcome as full members of the community.

---

## BE IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER

- » Find creative ways to include kids in your regular meetings when it makes sense. Include a snack-time and/or family devotional, include them in worship, or invite kids to pray with the adults.
- » Have regular get-togethers outside of group meetings, such as lunch at a park, pool party, or meals at different houses within the group.
- » A few times during the year, plan a serving project to do as a full group that includes children.

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## PROVIDE A SEPARATE SPACE

- » Have a separate supervised place where kids can build community with one another that allows adults to do the same. Consider also providing a few toys, games, or activities for them as well.
- » Consider either rotating parents to supervise or have parents pitch in to hire sitters for this time. Make sure no adult is left alone with another person's child at any time. Always have at least two adults with the children.

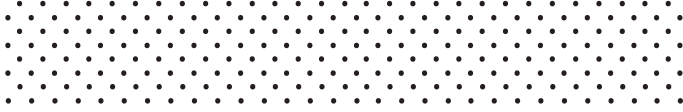
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## ADDITIONAL HELPFUL HINTS

- » Make sure the kids know the expectations and understand that while they're together, they must treat others and the things in the space with kindness and that they're expected to follow directions.
- » Children love to pray when they are given the opportunity to try it. They have amazing faith and believe God for big things!
- » Kids love to have fun and to be silly! To keep them engaged, make sure you use eye contact, use great enthusiasm and do not be afraid to act silly!
- » Make sure each child's parent helps with any bathroom needs.
- » Above all, love every child as an active and viable member of the group and growing disciple of Jesus.



# PCO GROUPS AND RIGHTNOW MEDIA



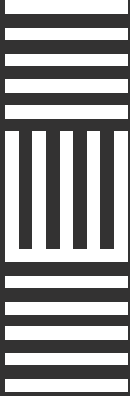
## PLANNING CENTER ONLINE GROUPS

- » Planning Center Groups is an online application that will help you manage your members, plan events, take attendance, and share resources.
- » When you become a group leader, you will receive an email with instructions for creating an account at [groups.planningcenteronline.com](http://groups.planningcenteronline.com).
- » Every week, soon after the start of your weekly gathering, an auto-generated email will be sent asking for you to take attendance. Just click the link in the email to record your attendance, as well as record any visitors.
- » The Events tab shows you a calendar of upcoming events for your group, along with some quick actions you can take on each event.
- » The Resources tab allows you to view resources that have been uploaded and shared with your group. As the leader, you will also have the option to upload resources for your members.
- » You can also use the **CHURCH CENTER APP** in the App Store and Google Play Store to view and manage your group.

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## RIGHTNOW MEDIA

- » RightNow Media is a huge customizable library of biblical video resources that you and your group have full access to.
- » RightNow Media contains hundreds of Bible studies, conference sessions, video illustrations, and kids' content you may use at any time.
- » Access to RightNow Media can be requested by emailing [info@zerocollective.org](mailto:info@zerocollective.org).
- » You can also use the **RIGHTNOW MEDIA APP** in the App Store and Google Play Store to access the library.



THE ZERO COLLECTIVE