

ROLE OF A SMALL GROUP LEADER

PRAYER: We encourage you to pray before your small group arrives to prepare your own heart. We also encourage you to open and close every small group meeting in prayer. Be committed to staying Christ-focused.

LISTEN: Model a listening attitude.

PARTICIPATE: Be willing to share and be genuine.

BE FAIR: Make sure that everyone who would like to has time to share.

BE TRUSTWORTHY: Communicate to your group that everything shared in the group is confidential. But do indicate that you are a mandated reporter. (You are required to report child abuse). Refrain from making judgments and encourage Christ-like response.

STAY ON TOPIC: Try to keep the topic focused to the subject at hand. One suggestion is to designate a word to indicate things have gotten off track (ex: “squirrel”).

AVOID ADVICE: It’s important that a small group not be a replacement for counseling. We are not here to fix each other but to point others towards knowing God better. If needed, consider asking the church for further resources (Stephen’s Ministry, NAMI, etc.)

ENCOURAGE: Be a voice of grace, encouragement and loving truth.

HELPFUL TIPS

Allow for a few minutes of socializing upon arrival.

Start consistently around the same time so that your group members know what to expect.

Let your group members know that if they need to leave early, it’s ok to slip out.

Save time for prayer requests at the end. If time is limited, the leader should do one general prayer over all of the prayer requests.

Encourage your members to be praying for one another between meetings.

Reach out to your group members individually to help them feel connected and seen.

Consider prayer partners within the group to encourage prayer and connection.