

PARTICIPANT

SMALL GROUP
LEADER
ORIENTATION

WELCOME!

God designed us with relationships in mind. Life-giving relationships that experience spiritual growth, strong community, and lasting friendships through every season of life. That is what small groups are all about.

Today, we'll share the vision for Small Groups here at Celebration Church. You'll discover the "why", the "how", and even the best next steps for you to become a group leader.

We are excited that you are with us today and we can't wait to hear what God has placed on your heart as we all grow together.

We are praying for you!

- The Celebration Small Groups Team

"Life change happens in the context of relationships"

- Pastor Joe Champion

WHY DO WE DO SMALL GROUPS?

The Vision for Small Groups

Small Groups are a place where you can belong, a space where you can believe God's Word and become all that He has created you to be. This means that a successful group is not defined by how many people attend, but by how relationships are developed and how the group supports the spiritual growth of every member. Relationships are formed through time and intentionality. Developing healthy, life-giving relationships that move people towards Christ is the ultimate goal for every group. Health multiplies health and that is the blessing we have had since October of 2000 when Celebration Church first started as a small group meeting in a home.

We have Small Groups because they are the heartbeat of our church! This is where life-change happens. Our relationship to Christ isn't just an experience that happens on the weekend. Our relationship to Jesus is to be lived out in our jobs, with our families, and friends. Church is a resting place where we can all gather, worship, and serve as one body and be the beacon of hope to our city. But to move forward, it is crucial that we are strongly connected to other Christians, because without a community of people to help pick you up, hold you up and celebrate with you in your best times, life can get lonely! Jesus lived His life in a small group; therefore, we need to. We must be big to reach the corners of the world, but small to reach the corners of our neighborhoods and communities.

HOW DO WE DO SMALL GROUPS

Celebration Small Groups operate in a "free market" system. This means that we do not assign people to groups or assign the focus for your group meetings. We want you to do the things that God has gifted you to do while sharing the love of Christ as you do it! We believe the Lord connects us through all stages and walks of life! Our groups range from curriculum-based studies to activity-based groups, and in all sizes and types.

Our desire is that your group will be a place where everyone can **BELONG**, **BELIEVE** and **BECOME**.

BELONG: Build Relationships & Experience Christ

Everyone desires to have a place where they can belong. It's often said that people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Make it your mission to care well for your group by knowing their name, story, and season.

BELIEVE: Grow Together & Deepen Faith

Every Group at Celebration deposits faith in its members by both reading scripture and prayer. Through this, we see the benefits of the family of God come to life!

- Dig into our Values and how they relate to building Small Groups

BECOME: Make Disciples & Deliver Hope

We are the most vibrant and fulfilled when we are being transformed into the image of Christ by knowing Him and caring for His people. Make disciples and deliver hope by propelling each member closer to Christ and finding a way to bless others together along the way.

SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE:

Groups meet year-round taking natural breaks as needed while staying in close communication. We encourage groups to meet weekly for consistency. During break periods some groups schedule 1-2 fun outings together to stay connected. (May, August, December are typical suggested break months)

- **ONSITES / OFFSITES**
- **CARE GROUPS**
- **FREEDOM GROUPS**

SUPPORT

THE STRUCTURE

Just as we encourage group members not to do life alone, we do not lead alone!

SENIOR PASTOR

Pastors Joe and Lori Champion



DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR / CAMPUS PASTORS



SMALL GROUP PASTORS



HUB COORDINATORS



COACHES

Coaches are experienced Small Group leaders who have been in your shoes. They know the excitement of starting a group, the spiritual call of ministering to those in a group, and provide experience when challenges arise. Every group will have an assigned coach. Their role is to provide spiritual and strategic support to the Small Group leader by checking in with you regularly to offer encouragement, assistance, and information.



LEADERS

Every small group leader provides leadership to the people in their group. You help point them to Jesus and provide care for them in times of need. This isn't easy to do on your own, that's why we encourage every group leader to develop or seek out a co-leader that will help you lead your group.

5. EXPECTATIONS/REQUIREMENTS

THE EXPECTATION OF SMALL GROUP LEADERS...

As a leader you can lead well by keeping these five essential things at the forefront of your mind. The expectation for all group leaders at Celebration Church is set high because we value your leadership and influence within your group!

Pray for your Small Group!

- We know God shows up when we pray.
- Prayer is essential in everything we do, so daily lift the needs and the people in your group.
- By praying we can meet the needs even before they are known. The Lord can begin to soften the hearts of those Coming to your group so that they will be ready to receive all that he wants to speak to their hearts.
- In addition, prayer for each group member will help you to identify their next step in Christ (like water baptism, forgiveness, healing) so that you can ensure that each person is growing in their spiritual walk with the Lord.

Prepare for your Small Group!

You can create a life-giving environment simply by being prepared. That starts with knowing the curriculum or devotional you are going to share before the group meets. It shows you have been praying and thinking about the group. Remember, you are not a teacher but a facilitator of conversation, so present a topic and ask open-ended questions.

Provide Care for your group!

Should a life-changing event or crisis take place in your group, it is important to know that you are the first line of care for your group members!

When you become aware of a need, share the event or crisis along with how you are caring for the group member with your Coach and complete the Pastoral Care form Small Group Leaders.

By following these steps, your campus team can come alongside you and your group members for additional support.

Pull out POTENTIAL of each group member!

As a person of wisdom, you can pull people up to their leadership potential. From the very beginning of your group, intentionally look for ways to build leaders, identify a co-leader, have people pray or ask them to give a devotion, and encourage them as they grow to begin a group of their own.

PARTICIPATE on the Small Groups Team!

- Communication: Read and respond to communication from your Small Groups Pastor, Coach, and the Small Groups Team!
- Newsletter: Read and respond to the monthly Small Group Newsletter.
- Church Wide Series: From time to time, we'll ask all Dream Teams and Small Groups to join us in a series focus that goes along with our weekend messages. These series bring the church unity and make for fun and powerful small group meetings!

LEADER REQUIREMENTS

Small Group leaders must:

- Love Christ and His people
- Have a healthy spiritual walk as a model to their group
- Submit a signed Small Group Leader Application and Honor Code
- Have a current (completed within the last 2 years) background check on file with the church
- Complete Connection Point (Step 1-2)
- Complete Small Group Leader Training
- Have a historical participation in small groups

LEADER AGREEMENT

As a Small Group Leader, you are assuming the responsibility for leading others. As you take on the title of leader, you must remember that your behavior and reputation represent Celebration Church and the body of Christ. For this reason, it's important that all leaders are aligned with our church beliefs and core values. Therefore, we have practical, ethical, and biblical expectations for our Small Group Leaders.

Practically: do not exploit your relationship network for business purposes, financial gain, or network marketing.

Ethically: do not engage with illegal drugs or unlawful practices.

Biblically: refrain from sexual immorality (pornography, adultery, fornication, homosexual acts), divisive behavior (gossip, speaking against the pastoral leadership or vision of the church), or any behavior that might grieve Christ or cause others to stumble.

While none of us are perfect, these are common areas that can impair the influence of Small Group Leaders and our ability to provide safe Christ-like community to the Celebration family. During your Small Group leadership, should you begin to struggle with any of the above circumstances or something else you feel convicted about, please talk to your Coach or a Celebration Church Campus Pastor.

Be committed to carry yourself in a manner that exemplifies Christ in your daily walk, both publicly and privately.

SMALL GROUP LEADER APPLICATION

Date: ____/____/____

Campus: _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Birth date: ____/____/____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City, State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Gender: Male Female

Marital status: Single / Married Spouse name: _____

CHURCH INFORMATION

How long have you regularly attended Celebration Church?

*If less than 3 years, please provide:

Name of previous church: _____

City/State: _____

How long did you attend this church? _____

Name of the pastor: _____

Have you been through Connection Point? Yes / No

Are you currently serving on the Dream Team? Yes / No

If yes, please list the team(s) on which you serve: _____

Have you completed a background check? Yes / No

WHAT YOU BELIEVE

Have you surrendered your life to Jesus? Yes / No

How Long? _____ Do you tithe regularly? Yes / No

Briefly explain why you would like to be a small group leader:

If you have attended a Celebration Church Small Group, please list the name of the small group and the small group leader.

LEADER QUESTIONS

Who are some of the most important people in your life?

What does a healthy and growing Small Group look like to you?

How can we best serve you as you continue to grow spiritually?
