



CATHEDRAL *of* ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA
LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, MAKE DISCIPLES

Small Group Field Guide

The Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola

Small Group Field Guide

January 2022

Ways a Successful Leader Grows

The 5 L's of Leadership:

Listen - Leaders are great listeners

Learn - Have the desire to learn more about your faith and inspire the group

Love - Leaders love because it's all about relationships

Lead - Lead with intention

Laugh - Laugh and enjoy the process

Relying on these principles, we unite with Christ as our center, and we grow as we cycle through these principles.

No Leader will ever lead alone!

As a leader, the Leadership team, other small group leaders, members, and resources will be here to help you.

"Be Strong and Courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged. For the LORD your GOD will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Titus 3: 4-7



How Do I Do This?

Becoming a Great Leader

Lead As You Follow!

Christ is the true leader of each Small Group. He started the 'world's greatest small group' with His disciples. He is the one around whom our circles are gathered, as were the first disciples. As we follow Christ and grow in our relationship with Him, as spiritual leaders we will lead others into encounters with God. Small Groups are one of the means we use to help each other draw closer into a personal relationship with Christ, learning to rely upon Him, turn to Him and integrate Him into each moment of our daily lives. As we grow in discipleship, we change – *and our lives bear witness to that change.*

Leadership Matters!

As we lead others, we will be helping them find their purpose and identity in Christ. We serve as role models for our group members and call others to transformation and into leadership. Leaders change the atmosphere and cast vision and that encourages the group to go deeper in discipleship and to move outward in service. Small Group leadership is a ministry, approached with a servant's heart. Becoming an effective leader is a journey – one that constantly challenges us to grow and evolve!

"For even the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as ransom for many." Mark 10: 45



"For where two or three have gathered in my name, I am there among them."

MATTHEW 18:20

Healthy Small Group Habits

1. Prayer

- ◇ Pray together weekly
- ◇ Pray for your members
- ◇ Pray for each other

2. Authenticity

- ◇ Be honest
- ◇ Be non-judgmental
- ◇ Be willing to examine your relationship with God
- ◇ Be humble

3. Commitment

- ◇ Support the Vision and Mission of the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola
- ◇ Attend meetings regularly
- ◇ Share life's joys and challenges through our faith
- ◇ Conduct meetings with respect for our Catholic tradition while remaining open and welcoming to those of all faiths
- ◇ Accept the ongoing challenge to "invest and invite"
- ◇ Encourage each other to grow in our faith

*If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love;
if we love, we will serve.*

MOTHER TERESA

Adult Small Groups

One More Reason Our Church is Amazing: **Adult Small Groups!**

"And all who believed were together and had all things in common." Acts 2:44

Vision

Generations upon generations will come to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ.

Mission

Creating Small Group environments where disciples can grow.

Strategy

To accomplish the Vision and Mission:

1. Leadership Development - Life is better *CONNECTED!*
2. Resources
3. Encouragement
4. Events

"For where two or three have gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18: 20

"For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations." PSALM 100: 5



The Small Group Leader...

- ◆ **Models** the habits of a healthy Small Group
- ◆ Is a member and a minister of The Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola
- ◆ **Navigates** the group meetings
- ◆ **Monitors** and promotes group health
- ◆ **Encourages** members to get involved in the meetings
- ◆ **Participates** in Small Group Leadership Development Events and encourages Co-Leader, and Members to do the same
- ◆ **Shares** leadership responsibilities with Co-Leader
- ◆ **Shows** up consistently, continue to grow in faith, and look to take their next STEP.



Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola

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Dear Small Group Leader,

Thank you for your continued dedication to the ministry of Small Groups. A special thanks to all who are new and growing in leadership roles!

Small Groups are a vital part of the Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola community because Small Groups are a pathway to intentional relationships that help us to grow our faith. In our Small Groups we challenge each other to pray, be authentic and to be committed to grow in our faith. It is through our passion, energy and enthusiasm that generation upon generation will come to know, love and serve Jesus Christ.

Our program was launched during the Advent season of 2020. We continue to grow and form new groups so that more lives can be transformed in Christ. With great excitement, the Leadership Development Team is focused on supporting and growing our Small Group Community. This Small Group Field Guide is a product of this team and we know that it will be a great tool. Thank you for being part of, and if you are leading, shepherding your Small Group. May God continue to bless you and your efforts as you lead others to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Blessings in Christ,

Deacon Dave and Beth Zanotelli

Small Group Coordinators

Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola

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Leaders: Deep Breath. Let's Go!

Getting Started

Before Each Group Meeting Begins:

- ◆ Pray
- ◆ Preview materials and the discussion questions
- ◆ Leader or Co-Leader communicates to confirm location and attendance

During Each 90 minute Group Meeting:

- ◆ Fellowship for approximately 10-15 minutes
- ◆ Open in prayer
- ◆ Introduce and watch the material
- ◆ Lead a discussion referring to weekly questions as a guide - *questions are guidelines only*
- ◆ Announcements and upcoming events
- ◆ Close in prayer (use this time to pray for special intentions)

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11: 28-30

Next Steps

The heart of our church is to become growing disciples, who are giving the whole of our lives to God, not merely checking off boxes or going through the motions. So we are always challenging and encouraging the members of our church to take the next step that is the next step for them.

SERVE- We have been given unique gifts and talents by God. Using our gifts to serve in **Ministry** (here on campus) and **Missions** (in the community) creates environments for others to experience God's presence on campus, brings God's love to other communities locally, nationally and internationally.

TITHE- We seek to honor God in all areas of life, and this includes our finances. As stewards, not owners, of the resources God has given us, we are called to sacrificial giving, which means percentage, progressive giving to the local church and the poor.

ENGAGE- We believe faith grows in a circle. In Small Groups, we grow in fellowship and relationship with one another, God, and in ways we cannot grow on our own. Small Groups are where our big church gets small.

PRACTICE- We know God wants us to live lives of integrity and virtue that stem from our personal relationship with Christ. We strive to practice daily prayer, Scripture reading, and full participation in the Sacraments to receive grace for our faith growth.

SHARE- We want others to experience the life changing message of the Gospel. Our strategy is to "Invest and Invite". That simply means we invest in the relationships we have with people in our lives, and when the time comes, invite them to church with us.

Members: You Matter!

Discover your purpose

Attendance *Sometimes you need the group and other times the group needs you.* In order to feel the difference, showing up is all you need to do. Transform your life and just show up weekly!

Bring your Bible and a Journal. Small Group is where the rubber hits the road. It's all about application of the Word of God. So bring your Bible and take notes so you remember what inspired or motivated you!

Commit to being a growing disciple with a Purpose and a Plan! Living in the Truth in Jesus Christ, the whole of God's truth has been made manifest. "Full of grace and truth", he came as the "light of the world", he is the Truth. "Whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." The disciple of Jesus continues in his word so as to know "the truth [that] will make you free" and that sanctifies. To follow Jesus is to live in "the Spirit of truth", whom the Father sends in his name and who leads "into all the truth". To his disciples Jesus teaches the unconditional love of truth: "Let what you say be simply 'Yes or No.'"

Attendance + God's Word = Commitment

Small Group Leader Covenant

Small Group Leaders are committed to creating environments where disciples can grow more disciples. Leadership of a Cathedral Small Group is viewed as an important ministry promoting discipleship and growing faith. Small Group Leaders and Co-Leaders agree to the following minimum standards that are intended to foster growing discipleship in Leaders, Co-Leaders, Coordinators, Small Group Members and the entire Cathedral Faith Community:

- ◆ Support a Growing Leader
- ◆ Pray regularly for the members
- ◆ Communicates weekly with the group
- ◆ Identify and develop a Co-Leader and Coordinators
- ◆ Invest and Invite others into Small Group life when the time is right
- ◆ Commit to and create a growing vision for your Small Group
- ◆ Update Small Group contact information with Small Group Director on at least a quarterly basis



Why We're Here & What We're Doing

Vision

Making Church matter by growing disciples who are growing disciples among disconnected Catholics in Palm Beach Gardens and influencing churches elsewhere to do the same.

Mission

Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.

Strategy

To accomplish Vision and Mission:

1. Gospel message
2. Weekend experience
3. Focus on newcomers
4. Encourage everyone to take their next step

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matthew 22:37, 39

“Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28