



for All Adults
for Men
for Women

LEADER ORIENTATION

Welcome to Groups Leader Orientation!

We often say that we're not a church *with* small groups, but a church *of* small groups. Those words aren't just a clever slogan. They're the most important thing we do because we want to help people connect to God, God's people, and God's work. We believe this happens best in small groups that grow spiritually, connect relationally, and serve missionally.

Leader Orientation is designed to help prepare you to lead your small group, whether it's a Group for men, for women, or for all adults. We want to equip you to be a source of encouragement and hospitality for your group members. We hope this orientation provides some helpful tools as you begin leading a group, and helps you move forward in your own faith journey.

Keep in mind that the Leader Orientation isn't exhaustive. We've tried to keep it simple by including the information that is most helpful as you begin leading. There will be other training opportunities for you to grow in leadership and it will be important to stay connected with your Coach to learn more (more on that later!).

Finally, we recommend that you use the space provided to take notes and record ideas for leading your small group.

Indeed, *life is better connected.*

Thank you for partnering with us to *help people connect to God, God's people and God's work* by creating Jesus-centered small groups led by intentional leaders that encourage members to GROW spiritually, CONNECT relationally, and SERVE missionally!

LEADER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

We want Leaders to:

BE (Posture)	DO (Skills)	KNOW (Theology/Groups)
<p><i>Serve well as you lead well.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christ-like. 2. Intentional. 3. Teachable. 4. Hospitable. 5. Humble. 	<p><i>Lead people to follow Jesus.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Model growth in Christ. 2. Create a great group environment. 3. Encourage members to grow and engage. 4. Implement the Leader Essentials. 5. Keep connected with staff and support. 	<p><i>Know it well enough to talk about it.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The gospel. 2. Scripture. 3. Culture. 4. Our strategy. 5. Group dynamics. 6. Yourself (identity, personality, gifts).

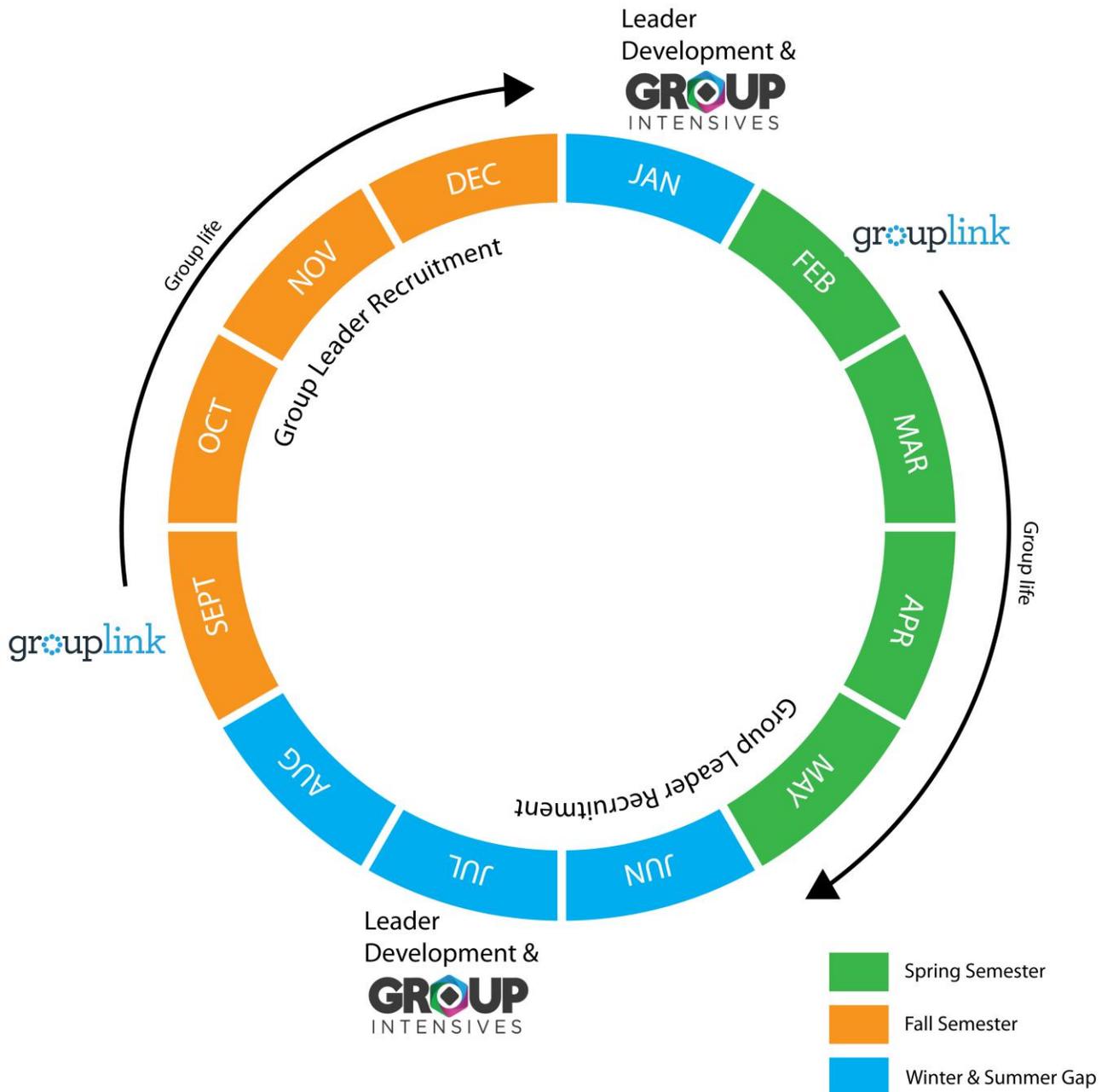
Annual Leader Development*

<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">One-on-One Meetings <i>(attend two)</i></p> <p>A one-on-one meeting with your Pastor, Director, or Coach to address specific group issues and help you develop personally.</p> <p>FOCUS: Personal Development</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Leader Skills Seminars <i>(attend two)</i></p> <p>Leader Community gatherings are scheduled accordingly.</p> <p>FOCUS: Skills Development</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Leader Development Training <i>(attend one)</i></p> <p>A training track offered in January and July. You only need to attend one of these but you can attend both.</p> <p>FOCUS: Leadership Development</p>
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**Leader's for Men's Groups, Women's Groups, and Adult Groups may have slight changes in the plan.*

Groups Calendar

A generic time line of the annual Groups cycle of important events, recruitment, and training. The green gradient corresponds with the Spring semester and the orange gradient corresponds with the Fall semester. These are "trial periods" for people to see if the group is right for them. Leader Development and Group Intensives (short-term topical based groups) occur during the month of January and July. Most groups take a break during these months, in addition to parts of December as well as June and August.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH OVERVIEW

<p>WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT IT? <i>Theology</i></p>	<p>HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT IT? <i>Language</i></p>	<p>HOW DO WE DELIVER ON IT? <i>Strategy</i></p>	<p>WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR IT? <i>Roles</i></p>
<p>Growth is movement toward Jesus <i>It is a step and a process (Phil. 2:12-13)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any step toward Jesus is growth • It's a journey with Jesus • It's personal with Jesus • It's a promise by Jesus <p>Growth is of the Spirit <i>It is enabled by grace</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We live by faith in the promises of the good news of the Kingdom of God. (John 14:6) • We set our minds on things of the Spirit who ultimately changes us (Rom. 8:5) <p>Growth is visible <i>It is seen (John 15:5)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is demonstrated by love for God. • It is validated through love for others. 	<p>The Goal <i>To be a disciple of Jesus (Matthew 4:19; 28:18-20)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following Jesus • Being transformed by Jesus • Making other followers of Jesus <p>The Journey <i>Creating space for 5 Growth Catalysts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practicing Truth • Purposeful Relationships • Planned Disciplines • Personal Ministry • Pivotal Circumstances <p>The Evidence <i>(Matthew 22:37-40)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loving God • Loving one another • Loving the least and the lost 	<p>Entry Points <i>"Sticky" Opportunities for people to want more of church</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large or medium in size • Wide "net" or "on ramp" for someone new or looking to get connected • Serving opportunities <p>Groups <i>Connect, Serve, Grow</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect relationally (Connecting to God's people) • Serve missionally (Connecting to God's work) • Grow spiritually (Connecting to God) <p>Resources <i>Support for Groups</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Groups & the Care Center • Marriage ministry • Leader development opportunities • Spiritual growth opportunities 	<p>The Individual <i>Taking Steps to be relationally fully engaged (Acts 2:42)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting in a small group. • Reading the Bible personally and with others. • Serving on a ministry team. • Giving to the church's mission. • Inviting others into the church community to meet Jesus. <p>Your Group <i>Support one another</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage steps in growing, connecting, and serving • Incorporate the Catalysts that leverage spiritual growth in meetings • Provide support & care for one another <p>The Leader <i>Keep the focus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On responding to God's Word and transformation of the heart • On relationships and model transparency • On serving together

