

LEADER QUICK START GUIDE

BEFORE. DURING. AFTER.

Leading a Small Group is more than getting people together and finishing a lesson. You are helping create a relational environment where people can know God, know one another, and grow as disciples of Jesus.

BEFORE GROUP

- **Prepare your heart.** Pray for your group members by name. Ask God to help you notice what is happening in their lives.
- **Prepare the conversation.** Read the curriculum and Scripture ahead of time. Know the main idea and the questions you want to emphasize.
- **Prepare your people.** Send a reminder. Know if someone new is coming. Notice who has been absent. Give your apprentice something meaningful to own.

DURING GROUP

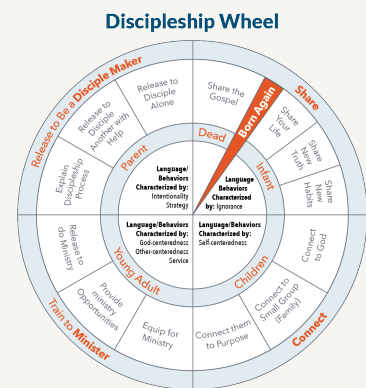
- **Create a place to belong.** Welcome people personally and help new people connect.
- **Keep Scripture at the center.** Ask questions, let people respond, and bring the group back to the passage when the conversation drifts.
- **Pay attention to people.** Notice the person who is quiet, hurting, drifting, asking deeper questions, ready to serve, or ready to lead.
- **Pray together.** Do not make prayer an afterthought. Give people room to share real needs and pray specifically.

AFTER GROUP

- Follow up with someone who shared something important.
- Contact someone who was unexpectedly absent.
- Follow up with a first-time guest.
- Talk with your apprentice about what you both noticed.
- Contact your Small Groups Pastor when a situation needs added care or guidance.

The goal is not to manage a meeting. The goal is to shepherd people toward Jesus.

LEADER LENS



ASK YOURSELF

- Who needs prayer or follow-up?
- Who may be drifting?
- Who may be ready for a next step?