



SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP LEADER STARTER KIT

2021 - volume 1

Hey there Small Group Leader!

Welcome to the Small Groups Family!

We are so excited that you are saying “yes” to God’s call on your life to lead a Small Group. At NorthRock, we truly believe that life change happens in the context of relationships. Small Groups are where those relationships are formed and where life change happens. Not only for your group members, but for you too!

NorthRock Small Groups are modeled with three key elements in mind: a place where people can CONNECT; a place where people CARE for one another; and a place where they can GROW.

Our Small Groups Team promises to equip you with resources, provide you support when needed, and encourage you along the way. You will be assigned a Small Group Hub Coach who will contact you and ensure you have everything you need as a new Small Group Leader.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to your Hub Coach for more information!

We hope this Leader Starter Kit will help you implement these three key elements to foster a healthy, life giving small group.

Thank you for leading. We are confident the best is yet to come for you and your group!

We are praying for you!

The NorthRock Small Groups Team

1. CONNECT: Build Relationships

We believe real life change happens in the context of relationships. Everyone desires to have a place where they can belong and connect with others.

At NorthRock, we believe our church should grow big and small at the same time. We are a church of Small Groups, not a church with Small Groups.

Free market Small Groups means you can take what you're already doing, and make it a Small Group. A good place to start is to host a group that dives deeper into the weekend message or a study on RightNow Media.

1. Take the first 15-20 minutes of each group meet-up to simply connect.
 - Leader Tip: Eat, hangout, ask icebreaker questions.
2. Ask the group what they are expecting to get out of joining a Small Group.
 - Leader Tip: Encourage consistency and vulnerability in your group, establish with the group how often you'll meet.

Things to do along the way: Sit in service together. Hang out outside of group. Attend a NorthRock Big Wednesday together.

Indicators of group health:

- Group members are responsive to communication.
- Group members are connecting to each other and beginning to form deep, meaningful relationships.
- Consistency in group attendance.
- Communication increases, trust is built among group members.
- Leader is facilitating the conversations (let the attendees talk) and ensuring the conversation stays on track.

2. CARE: Encourage & Support Each Other

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 so they can experience real life change. As a leader you can help provide care for your group through prayer, celebration, and support.

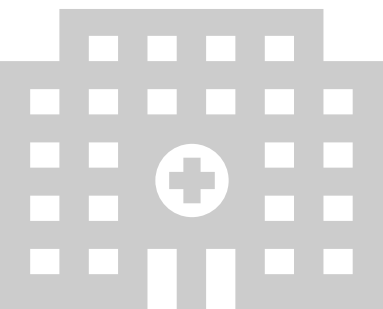
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 "Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble."

1. Pray for your group before you meet together, and create time to pray for the needs of your group when you are together.
 - Leader Tip: Record the prayer requests of your group in a notebook, and follow back up with prayer requests.
2. Take time to celebrate your group members as they journey through life.
3. Support and encourage your group members as they go through difficult seasons.
 - Leader Tip: Pray for them on the spot.

Things to do along the way: Host a group celebration for birthdays, exciting life changes, etc. Partner with the other group members to look for ways to bless members going through a difficult season whether financially, or providing a meal train, or childcare, etc.

Indicators of group health:

- Group members confidently know they are covered in prayer.
- Group members are celebrated during mountaintop seasons, and are supported during valley seasons.
- Consistency in group attendance.
- Group members are more trusting of each other and reach new levels of vulnerability.



3. GROW: Grow Your Faith

Faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26). We are the most vibrant and fulfilled when we are being transformed into the image of Christ by knowing Him and serving His people. Grow your faith by propelling each member closer to Christ and finding a way to serve others together along the way.

1. Focus on Next Steps: Join a Rockstar team, go public with their faith through baptism, lead their own small group, participate in outreach opportunities, etc.
2. Record stories of what God has done in your group over the last few months.
 - Leader Tips: Have the group write down some of the biggest things God has done in their lives over the past few months. Ask your Hub Coach about the Freedom curriculum and when Freedom groups start.
3. Consider using a study on RightNow Media to facilitate conversations that lead to spiritual growth.
4. Encourage members to invite new faces into the group.
5. Consider participating in Serve Day together (July).

Things to do along the way: Attend a NorthRock event with your group. Be on the lookout for local community needs that you and your group can meet together. Celebrate the wins by completing the “Share My Small Group Story” on the NorthRock website under the Small Groups page.

Indicators of group health:

- Each member is growing & becoming more like Christ. (salvation, baptism, Bible reading, regular church attendance, tithing, leading a Small Group, etc).
- Biblical principles are being reinforced and applied to daily lives.
- Group members are serving on a weekend Rockstar team.
- Conversations are deeper and more meaningful.
- Group is advancing in their faith and taking action in serving others.
- Group members are discovering their purpose for their lives.




SMALL GROUPS

LEADER FAQ'S

How do I lead a group?

1. Complete Discover Now (available on-demand and in-person)
2. Fill out Small Group Leader Application
3. Complete Small Group Leadership Training (available on-demand on our website at anytime, and in-person in January and August)
4. Register your Small Group

What type of group should I lead?

- Any group! We have seven different Small Group Hubs, or audiences, that your small Group will fall under (Men's, Women's, Community/Co-Ed, Marriage & Family, Freedom, Students/Young Adults, and Outreach). Our Small Groups are Free Market - so, you can take what you're already doing and make it a small group. Basketball, coffee groups, leadership groups, Bible studies, etc. The list is endless! If it is a curriculum based small group, the content will need to be approved. We are partnered with Right Now Media, so we have access to thousands of curriculums available at your disposal.

How long should my group meet?

- We have three semesters every year to provide an easy on-ramp for new groups. Our three semesters are Spring (January-May), Summer (June-August), and Fall (September-December). At the end of each semester, your Small Group Hub Coach will ask if you'd like to continue your small group. We encourage you to continue leading your group to allow deep friendships to develop.

How will people find my group?

- We always suggest that you start by inviting your friends.
- Your group will be visible online at <https://northrocksa.churchcenter.com/groups/small-groups>

How often should my group meet?

- Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, that's up to you! We encourage you to meet with your group consistently and routinely.

Can my group be a closed group so that no one can request to join my group on the Small Group Directory?

- Yes! If you already have a set group of people, all you have to do is add them to your group in PCO or the Church Center App.

Where should my group meet?

- Your group can meet at a coffee shop, a leader's home, restaurant, park, etc. We have heard many stories of people coming to know Jesus because of a group that was meeting at a coffee shop they happened to be at!

How do I communicate with my group?

- The preferred method of communication is on the messaging platform in the Church Center app. You may also email your group, but we have found better response rates on messaging platforms (text, groupMe, Church Center).

Do I need to take attendance?

- Yes, consistent attendance is an indicator of the health of your team. Create "Events" for your group on Church Center to reflect when and where your group will be meeting. You will get an automatic email prompting you to take attendance for your group.

Where can I find additional information?

- Our team continually prepares resources and updates for our leaders. For information on what we believe, to access these resources, important links and much more you can visit northrocksa.com/small-groups.

What are my technical responsibilities as a leader?

- Lead your group members in these three key areas: Connect, Care, & Grow
- Communicate weekly or biweekly with my group
- Take attendance on the Church Center App
- Respond to your hub leader when he/she communicates with you

If I need assistance to lead or have questions on leading who should I reach out to?

- Your Small Group Hub Coach should be your first line of communication. You are also welcome to email any questions you may have to smallgroups@northrocksa.com