



8 Top Tips for Small Group Leaders

1) PLAN LIKE IT DEPENDS ON YOU & PRAY LIKE IT DEPENDS ON GOD

Don't forget that a great party promotes itself. If your Small Group is well planned and people feel like their hopes and expectations were exceeded, they will invite others. This includes the following:

- Clear details in your invitations with location, time, what to bring, how to RSVP
- Your leaders are ready to welcome guest before the group begins
- Hospitality (food, snacks, beverages) is ready
- Discussion leaders are prepared

2) INVITE, INVITE, INVITE

Keep "others" focused and never stop inviting new people to your Small Group. Remind your people often to be inviting others. Create Flyers, Facebook Events, Texts, Emails etc. to help your people invite others. DO NOT rely on the Substance Guide to bring anyone to your Small Group. It's all about personal invites.

3) RESPOND & FOLLOW UP

Respond and follow up like a life depends on it - your Small Group's first impression is 100% impacted by your email response. Don't be casual in showing care through emails and texts before you've even met the person. Also, don't underestimate the power of a follow-up text/email after someone visits your Small Group.

4) DON'T LEAD SOLO

Teamwork makes the DREAM work! Work together with your co-leader(s) and invite committed people into your Small Group to join you in leading as a team. Divide up the admin, follow-up, hosting, food, leadership, etc to lighten the leadership load for everyone.

5) INVEST IN FUTURE LEADERS

Always be looking for, encouraging, and inviting further leaders to grow in their leadership - don't be afraid of losing them when they launch their own Small Group.

6) INCONVENIENTLY PRIORITIZE OUTSIDERS

We must be willing to give up our own desires and the natural drift towards "Insider-Focus". Stay welcoming and be open to new people. Work to avoid inside jokes and group formats that exclude or make new guests feel uncomfortable or out of the loop.

7) REMAIN IN JESUS

John 15 - Apart from Jesus, you can do NOTHING. Be intentional about your disciplines of seeking your Heavenly Father and staying hungry for His Word. Don't build a Small Group under your own strength.

8) THE DONT'S OF SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP

- Don't promote business opportunities, sell anything, and avoid political agendas during your Small Group or in general to the people in your Small Group.
- Don't serve alcohol at your Small Group gatherings (please use discernment in talking about drinking and in making invitations to your Small Group members other gatherings where alcohol will be served)
- Don't collect an offering at your Small Group
- Don't sign any contracts for facility rental or events on behalf of Substance Church