

Connect Group Leaders

Frequently Asked Questions

Be sure to check out our Small Group Leaders Resource Page - which is FULL of amazing resources, messages, and next steps for you as a leader! Click this [LINK](#) to find it! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, reach out to your campus pastors and staff. We are here to serve YOU!

1. Why do we do Connect Groups?

Connect Groups are a “top of the funnel” small group that provide the key context for people to plug in, meet new people, make friends, grow in faith and engage with Substance’s wider vision. Connect Groups are about a spiritual family, and therefore are the perfect environment to:

1. Grow Spiritually: Matthew 28:19 *‘Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.’* Colossians 1:28 *‘Present everyone fully mature in Christ.’*
2. Build Friendships: John 13:34-35 *‘A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’*

2. What’s the flow / agenda for a typical Connect Group?

Here is an example of a Connect Group Agenda:

6:00 - 6:30:	Dinner
6:30 - 6:40:	Bring group together and go over schedule for the night Set the purpose and vision for the night
6:40 - 6:45:	Worship/Singing - see #6 below for more
6:45 - 6:50:	Icebreaker Questions (EXAMPLES)
6:50 - 7:30:	Sermon Recap/Group Discussion - see #5 below for more
7:30 - 8:00:	Split into men/women for prayer
8:00	Night Ends

3. What should we do about offering child care?

Some groups offer child care, and others don’t! Some groups ask parents to chip in to help pay babysitters if child care is needed, some have sets of parents watch kids during discussion on a rotating basis during the small group trimester. If you have questions, get in touch with your campus staff/pastors and they will help give guidance!

4. What about food/meals?

Most groups have some kind of sign up process for who is assigned to bring food, drinks, and/or other items each week. Many of these groups use SignUp Genius ([CLICK HERE](#)) each week to allow people to volunteer to bring food. We have also compiled a list ([CLICK HERE](#)) of great options for entrees that people can make.

5. How do we facilitate group discussions? What if nobody talks? What if someone talks too much?

Designate one person from your leadership team to facilitate group discussion. That person's role is not to re-preach the sermon or do all the talking! Your primary responsibility is to give a brief recap/overview of the Sunday message, with some of the big picture ideas and points

With regards to group discussion, the leader's role is to facilitate the discussion, not do all the talking. It can also be helpful to set some ground rules, such as "One person talks at a time." Alpha USA has a great 2 minute video on how to handle the dynamics of leading a group discussion: ([LINK](#))

Remember, if you have questions or tensions with leading your group's discussion, your campus pastors and staff are here to help! We would love to hear how we can best serve you!

6. How do we do worship/singing?

Some groups have musically-inclined folks who can lead songs with an acoustic guitar or piano! Many groups do not have this, which is totally fine! It usually works great to pull up a YouTube video or Spotify link to a well-known worship song and play it on your TV or Bluetooth Speaker. It usually works even better to choose a song that we sang the previous Sunday, so that we know at least most of the people will be familiar with it.

7. How do I get the Sermon Summaries and Discussion Questions?

Every week, Sermon Notes & Discussion Questions are uploaded to the Small Group Resource Page. ([LINK](#))

8. How should I divide Leadership Roles amongst our team?

Delegate as many tasks as possible to people who regularly attend your group - invite people into ownership! Some ideas for tasks: someone welcoming at the door, welcome and prayer before dinner, inclusion question, time keeper to keep things moving, sermon recap, announcements, etc.

Pastor Peter has some incredible resources as well, including this handout ([LINK](#)) that breaks down the 7 Functions of a Small Group Team! Check out this and more at our Substance Leaders page ([LINK](#)).

9. How can I promote my Connect Group?

Remember, there is nothing more effective and powerful than a personal invite to attend your Connect Group! Consider the 15 minute rule - show up to church 15 minutes early, and plan to stay 15 minutes late. Make it a priority to meet new people in the foyer and don't be shy about inviting them to your group! This is the MOST effective way to build your Connect Group - the power of the personal invitation!