



GROUP LEADER TRAINING

GROUPS

CEDARCREEKCHURCH

WHY GROUPS EXIST

Groups have one, simple purpose—to bring people together. We believe God created us to live in community with others, only then can we experience the full life He intends for us.

We believe life-change happens in the context of _____ .

Meaningful relationships can be hard to find. Groups exist to make life-changing relationships relevant and accessible to you.

The two whys of Groups:

1. _____

2. _____

CedarCreek Groups Model

At CedarCreek, we believe our church must grow _____ and _____ at the same time.

We grow larger to reach as many people as possible with the life-giving message of Jesus. We gather in Groups to build community and care for people.

CedarCreek is a church _____ Groups, not a church _____ Groups.

We base our Groups model on the early church as described in the Bible. In Acts, you can read about the tremendous growth of the first church in Jerusalem, where Group meetings helped lay the foundation.

And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: Jesus is the Messiah. ACTS 5:42

Groups offer people:

1. A Place to _____

When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. 1 CORINTHIANS 9:22

We were not made to do life alone. God created us for community. Groups provide a place to connect with others, share life, and grow in faith together.

1. A Place to _____

It is through life together that our problems become smaller. God uses others to bring support and encouragement into our lives. Groups become a place where others don't just know your name, but care about what is happening in your life and want to support you in your spiritual journey.

2. A Place to _____

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. PROVERBS 27:17

We believe every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. Groups are a place you can grow with others to become more like Jesus and reach the potential God has put inside you.

WHAT A GROUP LOOKS LIKE

Your life is your Group.

At CedarCreek, we use a _____ approach to Groups. This means we want people to gather together based on the things they enjoy and those things that are important to them. Essentially, the things you are already doing in your life are the things that can make up your Group!

Free market leaders form their Group around their _____ or _____ .

From sports Groups to lunch Groups, mom Groups to student Groups, Bible study Groups to creative arts Groups; our Groups are as varied as we are. All Groups fall within one of eight categories:

Men Women Marriage & Family Students Financial Freedom Outreach Prayer

Group Structure

Groups meet throughout the year in _____ :

Winter/Spring – 13 Weeks (Jan-May)

Summer – 6 Weeks (Jun-Jul)

Fall – 13 Weeks (Sep-Dec)

Groups meet _____ during each semester.

Groups meet in a _____ of places like homes, parks, restaurants, coffee shops, and office buildings.

New Groups start every semester, making it easy to build community and enjoy different types of Groups.

No matter what your Group meets about, each meeting should be made up of four things:

1. _____ Laid back time for Group members to talk and get to know each other.

2. _____ or _____

This will vary based on what kind of Group you're leading. It could be an activity like ultimate frisbee, outreach, a discussion about a book or a weekend message.

3. _____ Ask for prayer requests from Group members and pray at the beginning and/or end of each Group meeting.

4. _____

This is what differentiates your Group from your neighborhood book club. Whether it's through activities or discussion, always find a way to include the Word of God. This can be as simple as sharing something God is teaching you with the Group or talking about a verse you read that week.

ESPN: These principles apply to how our Groups work and our individual conversations with Group members that are struggling.

E _____

S _____

P _____

N _____

Groups are not a place for:

Business

Offerings

Unapproved materials or speakers

Controversial topics

YOUR ROLE AS A GROUP LEADER

God has a part for all of us to play in the church. Group Leaders will play a part in coming alongside their Group members to help care for people.

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:11-13

The primary role of a Group Leader is to help Group members

_____ in their walk with God.

Know the state of your flocks, and put your heart into caring for your herds.

PROVERBS 27:23

People in your Group will be at different places in their spiritual lives and each person will have different next steps to take. Here is a guide of some next steps you can help people take:

Start attending weekend services

Start tithing

Start reading the Bible regularly

Attend the Leadership Summit

Start praying regularly

Invite a friend or neighbor to church or a Group

Be baptized

Attend a Group Leadership Training to become a Group Leader

Complete GrowthTrack

Join a serving team

How to be a successful Group Leader:

1. _____ for the members of your Group.
2. Consider partnering with a _____ to help share the responsibility of caring for and leading your Group.
3. _____ with Group members outside of weekly meetings through phone, email, text, social media, or face-to-face. Encourage Group members to connect with each other throughout the week as well.
4. Have _____ through laughter and by creating an enjoyable environment.
5. Respect people's _____ by beginning and ending your Group on time.

6. _____ Group members to attend church services and events with you like campus specific activities, conferences, and outreach opportunities.
7. _____ the Group around a member going through a crisis. Use wisdom and be sensitive.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Prayer is the _____ of our church and it is important for your Group.

Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. 1 CHRONICLES 7:14

How to pray for your Group:

Pray for any requests Group members share

Ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit in your Group

Pray that God will open people's hearts to hear His truth

Pray for authentic community to develop

Pray for wisdom and strength to lead your Group well

CONFIDENCE AS A GROUP LEADER

If you only do what you feel comfortable doing, you don't need God.
God's best is often found outside your comfort zone.

When you serve God and people by leading a Group,
He will equip you and give you the strength and wisdom to lead well.

For I can do everything through Christ,
who gives me strength.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity,
but of power, love, and self-discipline. 2 TIMOTHY 1:7

When you feel uncertain about leading a Group,
use scripture to overcome the lies of the enemy.

1. When you feel like you don't have the time, remember _____
_____, and His timing is perfect.

Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant.
If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.
ECCLESIASTES 11:4

2. When you feel unqualified, remember _____.

It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes
from God. He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. 2 CORINTHIANS 3:5-6

3. When you feel like your past disqualifies you, remember _____

_____.
All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort.
He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.
When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.
2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4

LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

As a Group Leader, you are never alone in creating community. We have staff and the Groups Team who are working alongside you to invest in great Groups at CedarCreek.

Your Coach

As a Group Leader, you have a Coach paired with you to help as you need support throughout the semester.

Your Coach's number one priority is to _____ for _____ daily.

Reach out to your Coach if you have a need, prayer request, or concern.

HOW TO CREATE GOOD GROUP DYNAMICS

Set expectations

A key to helping people feel comfortable in your Group is to let them know what to expect. Take time to share how the Group will grow from week to week. This can include things like explaining the times you will begin and end the Group, how discussion or Group activities will happen, and how Group members can share prayer requests or best engage in the Group.

Follow the 70-30 rule

Give the members of your Group room to speak up instead of doing all the talking yourself. About 70% of talking should come from members and 30% from the leader.

Keep discussion positive

If conversation takes a negative or destructive turn, guide it back to a healthy place. If someone needs to talk about a sensitive or complex issue, you can follow up with them after the Group or call your Coach to help you respond well.

Keep the conversation relevant to everyone

Remember people in your Group will be at different places in their spiritual journey. Be thoughtful when you talk about spiritual concepts or church terms that might be unfamiliar to new Christians or new church-goers.

Respect boundaries

Men should minister to men and women should minister to women. A couple may minister to a single person. We want to maintain integrity and purity in our Groups. These boundaries will help protect the leaders and Group members from entering into an uncomfortable or inappropriate situation.

Stay connected

Throughout the semester, respond to your Coach and the Groups Team about Group attendance, potential Group Leaders, and how members are taking next steps.

STARTING YOUR GROUP

All Group Leaders must complete the following steps before leading:

- ☐ Become a Missional Member of CedarCreek
- ☐ Complete the CedarCreek GrowthTrack
- ☐ Attend a Groups Leadership Training
- ☐ Complete the Groups Leadership Application
- ☐ Complete a Groups Leadership one-on-one interview
- ☐ Sign the Groups Leadership Commitment

HOW TO START YOUR SMALL GROUP

1. Ask God for direction about what Group to lead and who to invite.
2. Once you decide on a topic or activity for your Group, choose a place and time to meet.
3. Register your Group by completing a registration form at CedarCreek.tv/groups so people can contact you and attend.
4. Invite people you know or meet to check out your Group.
5. Pray for God to do great things through your Group.

Preparing for your Group meetings:

Send a message to Group members reminding them about the first meeting.

Arrive early to set up a welcoming environment.

Consider having nametags available to help everyone learn names for the first few weeks.

Conversation

Here are a couple of conversation starters to help get people talking:

How did you learn about our Group?

What are your hobbies?

What are you looking forward to this year?

What brought you here?

What are you hoping to get out of this Group?

THANK YOU
for being an important
part of our Groups at
CedarCreek!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I recruit people to come to my Group?

Start with people who are already in your sphere of influence (co-workers, friends, and neighbors).

Find people around you who are new to the church, are new believers, or have shown interest in getting involved.

Look for people you think you can help realize their potential.

Ask God to send the right people to your Group.

Where can I hold my Group?

We encourage groups to meet outside the church building, in the places where you like to spend your time. Some of the most common meeting places are homes, restaurants, parks, coffee shops, and office buildings.

Does my Group have to meet weekly?

We encourage meeting weekly each semester in order to build genuine relationships.

How do I measure if Group members are taking a next step?

Ask! Make it part of your discussion, whether in a Group setting or individually. Also, encourage everyone in your Group to complete the Next Step Survey at the end of the semester. Here are some great questions to guide your conversation:

How did you get connected to this Group?

What are you most looking forward to in the Group?

Do you attend CedarCreek?

What brought you to CedarCreek?

Which campus do you attend?

Have you ever been part of a Group before?

What are you focused on in your life right now?

What do you feel like God has been doing in your life lately?

Have you been through GrowthTrack? Do you remember what your personality type is or what your spiritual gifts are?

Are you familiar with 21 Days of Prayer?

Have you ever served on a serving team?

What areas of your faith are you hoping to grow in the coming months?

How can I pray for you?

Everyone in your Group will be at different places spiritually. The vision of helping them “take a next step” is not to get them to do everything at once, it’s to identify where they are spiritually and offer a practical next step to help them grow.

Here are some examples of next steps you can share, depending on where a Group member is spiritually:

Invite them to attend a service with you.

Share how you spend time regularly to pray, worship, and read God’s Word. Encourage them to make their own plan for time with God.

Share your personal story and what God has been teaching you.

Tell them about the CedarCreek app and the LivingItOut Bible Study.

Share how GrowthTrack can help them take their first steps towards discovering their purpose and invite them to attend.

If they are ready to receive Christ, offer to pray with them.

Invite them to consider being baptized. Invite your Group to be there to celebrate anyone getting baptized.

Encourage them to learn more about areas like tithing, the Holy Spirit, prayer, and more by watching past messages at CedarCreek.tv.

What should I do if someone asks a question I can't answer?

It's okay to not have all the answers. Thankfully, we can find guidance through prayer, God's Word, and the Holy Spirit. Encourage them to spend time reading the Bible and praying. Also, let them know that you will do your best to get some information and get back with them at your next meeting. Do some personal research and call your Coach to get advice.

What should I do if someone in my Group shares something with me (or the Group) that requires attention beyond what I (or we) can provide?

If you encounter a difficult situation within your Group, please know that you are not alone. If a member is going through a crisis, you can rally the Group around them to provide prayer, encouragement, and support. Use wisdom and be sensitive to the situation. If you are unsure of what to do, don't hesitate to ask your Coach.

How can I share stories of life-change from the Group semester?

We love hearing about lives that are changed through Groups. You can share your stories with your Coach or email them to GodChangedMe@CedarCreek.tv.

You can also share your own personal stories through social media and tag [#CedarCreekTV](https://www.instagram.com/CedarCreekTV).

HELPFUL SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

At CedarCreek we believe ministering through the Bible is the most powerful way to care for people. As you pray over a Group member, try inserting that member's name in the scripture to make it more personalized.

As a leader, we encourage you to find and memorize at least three scriptures. We believe this will equip you for when you are walking someone through a tough situation as well as give you strength throughout the semester.

Here is a list of powerful scriptures that you can apply to any situation:

“...And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.”

MARK 12:30-31

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.

1 JOHN 5:14-15

But in that coming day no weapon turned against you will succeed. You will silence every voice raised up to accuse you. These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the Lord; their vindication will come from me. I, the Lord, have spoken!

ISAIAH 54:17

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

To bring you up to date, Tychicus will give you a full report about what I am doing and how I am getting along. He is a beloved brother and faithful helper in the Lord's work. I have sent him to you for this very purpose — to let you know how we are doing and to encourage you.

Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you love with faithfulness. May God's grace be eternally upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

EPHESIANS 6:10-28

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

ROMANS 8:28

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

ISAIAH 55:8-9

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

EPHESIANS 2:10

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

JEREMIAH 29:11

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

MATTHEW 5:14-16

No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:39

Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"

HEBREWS 13:5-6

"...Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."

ISAIAH 41:10

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

JAMES 1:2-4

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7

So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

ROMANS 10:17

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Show us how to increase our faith.' The Lord answered, "If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'May you be uprooted and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you!"

LUKE 17:5-6

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

HEBREWS 11:1

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

JAMES 1:5

Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers.

PROVERBS 11:14

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

ROMANS 8:1-2

"Come now, let's settle this," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool." ISAIAH 1:18

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-14

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