

# SMALL GROUPS

# 50

TIPS FOR  
LEADING  
SMALL  
GROUPS

THEMED  
GROUPS

GROUPS THAT  
TRANSFORM  
YOUR PEOPLE

# 7 IDEAS

EVERY LEADER  
SHOULD TRY



# Small Groups

Most people who have been around a church for a while have a pretty good idea about what a small group is. Or do they? The following definition will hopefully help clarify what we mean by “small group.”

**A Small Group is an intentional gathering, meeting regularly for the purpose of joining God’s mission.**

Below is a list of small group curriculums ranging from free to \$99. You will also find tips and ideas for your next small group meeting.

**Alpha Course** (Submitted by Dane Wead, Pastor of New Life Fellowship):

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question concerning the Christian faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the globe and everyone is welcome.

Cost: Free

Website: [alphausa.org/faqs](http://alphausa.org/faqs)

More: This website includes everything you need, from promotion to downloadable resources.

**Church of the Highlands:**

Small groups have one simple purpose: To bring people together. We believe God created us to live in relationship with others; only then can we live the full life he intends for us. Sharing life through community is part of our design, but meaningful relationships aren’t always easy to find. That’s why small groups exist—to make these life changing relationships relevant and accessible to you.

Cost: Free

Website: [www.churchofthehighlands.com/groups](http://www.churchofthehighlands.com/groups)

More: 8 different PDF curriculums located on their website, from Fresh Start to Outreach.

**Life Church:**

Small groups are a vital part of the church. They help people learn about God and grow closer to Him and to each other. The Life Church website has an abundance of resources and provides them all at no cost to you.

Cost: Free

Website: <https://open.life.church/resources/3338-lifegroup-resources>

### **Church Outreach Ministry Ideas**

In this isolated world, LIFE Groups help people connect with others in a healthy social environment. God has created us with a deep longing for community. LIFE Groups address the need to “belong.” Anyone who has spent time in community with a small group of believers understands that we grow in the Lord best when we “live out” our faith together with others. LIFE Groups serve to unite us with God and to one another in a small group setting. In LIFE Groups, you learn about Him and His will for your life as revealed from His Word in a loving, caring, and encouraging social environment.

Cost: Free

Website: [www.christianoutreachtools.com/life-groups-guide.html](http://www.christianoutreachtools.com/life-groups-guide.html)

More: Downloadable manual and lessons

### **City on a Hill**

City on a Hill is a nonprofit group that develops and produces small group bible study materials. They believe in reaching the world for Christ through media. Their series includes titles such as: “I Could Only Imagine,” “Messy Grace,” “Manhood Journey,” “The End of Me,” “Not a Fan,” and more.

Cost: The products vary in cost.

Website: <https://cityonahillstudio.com/who-we-are/#!>

### **50 Tips for Leading a Small Group by City on the Hill**

1. Pray! – A successful group will be of God. So pray that God blesses your leadership and helps your group to be everything He has in mind.
2. Confirm the details with your potential attendees, even if they already know. Here is an example: “Our group starts this week. We’re meeting this Wednesday at 7:00 pm at my house. You don’t have to bring anything other than a Bible. Here is my address. Here is my phone number in case you have questions or won’t be able to make it.”
3. Before people show up, turn on every light on the main floor of the house where people will be entering and your group will be meeting. Making your house bright will create a warm environment.
4. Before people show up, turn on some background music. Entering a house with music playing is more inviting. Make sure to turn the music off once you’re ready to begin your meeting.
5. Before people show up, have your couch/chairs set up in a circle and ready to go.

[Click here for the remaining 50 tips](#)

## 7 Small Group Ideas Every Leader Should Try – Life Church

1. Communion
2. Night of Prayer
3. Fun Night
4. Change of Scenery
5. Increase the Ownership
6. Separate
7. Share Something Vulnerable

## 7 Life Group (Small Group) Ideas You Probably Haven't Thought Of

1. Attend an Online Church Service Together
2. Flip Your Group
3. Join Another Group
4. Meet in Shifts
5. Add Someone New
6. Make a Group Bucket List
7. Connect Locally

## Small Group Bible Study Topic Themes

A church small group can unite and transform a group of people, reflecting the Apostle Paul's encouragement to, "stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together" (Hebrews 10:24-25). If you need some small group leadership inspiration, look no further than this list.

1. Teen Small Groups – Integrity, Spiritual Warfare, Identity in Christ, Parables, Relationships and [more](#).
2. Men's Small Groups – Power Tools, Manly Mentoring, Spiritual Gifts, Finances, Fighting Isolation and [more](#).
3. Women's Small Groups – Biblical Femininity, Marching Orders, Discontented Heart, Bible Journaling, Getting Back to Grace and [more](#).
4. Couples Small Groups – Thriving in Marriage, Becoming Best Friends, Roles and Goals, Being on the Same Team and [more](#).
5. Parenting – Bible 101, Handling Parental Anger, The Big Parenting Picture, Handling Disappointment and [more](#).



**Come Up with a Custom Plan** (submitted by Nathanael Ward, Pastor Open Door Church, Pagosa Springs, CO):

We have something called, The Deeper Project. We have 4 different times and locations throughout the week, from coffee shops to homes. The format is simple: We take a book of the Bible as a church and break it down into roughly a chapter a day. We come together once a week over a meal and discuss the chapters. We assign chapters to different individuals or couples, so everyone has a chance to “teach.” We have a pastor or trusted leader at each group to serve as a kind of a moderator (to answer questions and guide the discussion). We couple this time of Bible study with prayer for one another. This format is both simple and sustainable.