

northeast  
GROUPS

# Table of Contents

Values	2
Vision	4
Focus	4
Northeast Funnel	5
Group Leader	6
Group Values	7
Group Meeting Goals	10
Healthy Groups	11
Getting Started	14
Group Leader Resources Page	16
Group Covenant	17
Planning Center	19
Church Center App	21
Resources Content	22
Support Team	27

# VALUES

## Our Purpose Statement: “Jesus Is Why!”

Our unique contextualization of the unchanging mission of Jesus’ Church:

We are a church who unleash Jesus’ love everyday, everybody, everywhere. In the Home! Workplace! City! Church! School!

### **The values that drive our actions and decisions:**

Intimacy with God – We live our lives connected with God.

Love for neighbor – We prioritize love of neighbor above self, no matter the cost to ourselves.

Faithfulness to the truth – We follow the way of Jesus and honor the Word of God, even if it’s unpopular.

Public witness – We always walk the walk and we’re ready to talk the talk when the opportunity is right.

Missional intentionality – We approach every arena of our life as a mission field.

## **Aspirational vision targets we are aiming at:**

We will become an equipping hub that trains people to unleash Jesus' love in their everyday lives.

We will build a robust communal rule of life so our people grow in intimacy with God.

We will ensure every person can name their pastor and friends within the church.

We will continue to build our reputation as the Love the 'Ville Church through our social concern.

We will lead in facilitating unity among diverse churches in the 'Ville.

We will be a multi-ethnic congregation.

We will be a people of unceasing prayer.

We will be a congregation who knows, honors, and reads the Bible,

We will invest disproportionately in discipling our youth, especially the most committed.

We will create thoughtful and beautiful expressions of the Kingdom for our community.

## **VISION**

Groups are an intentional, authentic community where we go to grow and become like Jesus.

Here at Northeast, we believe that disciple making happens best when two things come together. First, people understand who Jesus is and are equipped with tools that help them follow Him. Second, people are surrounded by others from different places in their own journeys who can provide support and push them to become like Jesus.

The early church modeled Christ centered values that are the cornerstone of Northeast. These values are community, servanthood, and generosity.

## **FOCUS**

Community - Intentional Community with other like-minded Christians.

Servanthood - Live our lives connected to God and from the overflow we unleash love in our everyday life.

Generosity - See every arena of our life as a mission field.

# **NORTHEAST FUNNEL**

Northeast Funnel is a tool to direct people to find out what their next step is in our attempt to become like Jesus.

## **Weekend Service**

They should regularly attend one of the weekend services.

## **Basics**

They are encouraged to attend the Basics course. This is a four-week class that lets them know about the church and its values.

## **Serve**

They are encouraged to find an opportunity to volunteer at Northeast and the local community.

## **Groups**

They are encouraged to become a member of a group.

## **Mentoring**

Nine-month discipleship program that starts in August.

# **GROUP LEADER**

What does it take to be a Good Group Leader?

- Cares for people
- Listens to people
- Organizes the group
- Moving people to take their next step

## **Vision for group leaders**

The primary role of the group leader is to know, love and follow God and help others do the same.

Here at Northeast Jesus is Why! We want all our group leaders to understand how important their role is in helping to develop discipleship focused groups.

As a Group Leader you need to be willing to walk with and care for people. You should be willing to go first in discussion. Group Leaders don't have to have all the answers or be a Bible expert. That means being willing to ask and answer questions to help the group discover Jesus. Leaders are authentic, not perfect. Group Leaders simply model staying connected to Jesus and encouraging the group to be healthy. Groups help people move from spectator to Stakeholder.

# Group Values

We look for these values in a small group leader: Authentic Community, Spiritual Growth and Bible-focused.

## **Authentic Community**

Goal: Members of your Group to be fully known and accepted.

Authentic community is the place where you can express your true thoughts and feelings and allow others to do the same.

Being authentic is a process that takes time and trust. As the leader you can model this and create an environment that fosters trust and allows the time for genuine open relationships.

Group Leaders do this by sharing appropriately, asking good questions, and caring about the spiritual growth of your group.

The leader sets the tone with being authentic.

The leader goes first.

“You are called into the community of faith; the call was not meant for you alone...” -Bonhoeffer



## Spiritual Growth

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” - Galatians 5:22-23.

Growth is movement; any step forward is growth.

Group leaders are people who are focused on their own growth and helping others grow. Make sure to be on the lookout and celebrate these steps in your group.

Growth is visible; it is demonstrated by the fruit in your life.

Someone deciding to give their life to Jesus and following him in baptism and someone deciding to read scripture regularly to hear from God are both steps of growth. It can come as someone grows closer to God, or they love the people around them. Always look to celebrate growth in your group.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” - John 15:5

## Bible Focused

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right” - 2 Timothy 3:16

“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.” - Hebrews 4:12

A group leader does not need to be a Bible scholar, but Bible focused. The Bible is used as the guiding light.

We always want to be growing in our ability to hear from God and often He speaks most clearly through His Word. A group leader is learning the story of the Bible in new ways and respects it as authoritative.

At Northeast we accept the Bible as a whole. Not only do we accept it, but we believe it is living and active. God uses His Holy Spirit to convict us through the Bible.

At the same time, The Bible is a document that is thousands of years old. It is hard to understand at times. Northeast works hard to explain it in a practical way and provide study materials so everyone may understand the Bible. We believe it should be studied in community to better understand and obey what it teaches.

# **GROUP MEETING GOALS**

A group should circle around the following goals:

## **Study**

Your group may have a great rhythm of regular study. It is important to find times to just hang out together. Spending time in community opens up opportunities to connect with the people of your group in a different way. It allows kids, spouses, and significant others to engage in the group in new fun way as well. It is important for you as the group leader to make the call on what your group needs to help it grow.

## **Community**

We want to challenge every group to regularly Love the ‘Ville in the home, workplace city and church. It is best when your group finds their sweet spot in serving. (for more ways to find out how your group can find their “ministry” Check out our group leader webpage for resources to help your group explore serving opportunities.)

## **Service**

Northeast also provides quarterly opportunities to engage in Love the ‘Ville with your group.

The leader balances these values and goals to create a healthy group. The leader sets the tone.

# Healthy Groups

## Facilitator

- Facilitators Encourage everyone to participate. Leaders should talk less than 20% of the time
- Facilitators Guide the discussion. Don't let people control the conversation. Invite people who aren't sharing.
- Facilitators are curious. Don't ask "why" questions. Ask "how" questions.
- As a facilitator the Small Group leader is in the position as leader to:
  - Make it easier for others to find meaningful relationships.
  - Make it easier for all the needs of the group to be met.
  - Make it easier for people to find their place at Northeast Christian Church.

"Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" – Matthew 4:19

## Co-Leadership

- The model at Northeast Christian Church is co-leadership when possible
- Co-leadership takes the pressure off one person or couple
- Co-leadership models shared responsibility to the group.

"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. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken." - Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

## Openness

- Healthy groups grow.
- Set ground rules for inviting new people to the group.
- Leave an empty seat.
- Remember our goal is to get people connected. We aren't trying to build a best friend group that last 20 years. If that happens that is great but that isn't our goal.

## Shared Ownership

- Everyone has something to offer.
- Identify strengths and gifts of your group members.
- Invite everyone to own parts of the group.
- Encourage all members to stretch themselves by leading in different ways.

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.” - 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

## **Multiplying**

Growth is a goal for every group. there will never be a time when formation team will force you to divide your group in half, at the same time there may come a season when the next best step is to form a new group. if you get to that point we'd like you to contact the spiritual formation team and we can discuss it.

Growth is the goal for any group.

As a leader it is your responsibility to know your group. If you think you are at a place where you have to do something.

# Getting Started

The first weeks of a group can be an exciting time. Here are some items to consider:

- Ask God for direction about what group to use
  1. DBS
  2. Northeast Resources/Sermon Discussion Guides
  3. Studies
  4. Right Now Media.
- Once you decide on a topic or activity for your group, choose a place and time to meet.
- Invite people you know or meet to come check out your group.
- Pray for God to do great things through your Small Group.

## **Preparing for Your Group Meetings:**

Here are some good practices for the first group meeting:

- 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 conversation starters to help get people talking as your group gets to know each other:

- How did you learn about our group?
- What are your hobbies?
- What are you looking forward to this year?
- What are you looking forward to this year?
- What are you hoping to get out of this Small Group?

## Expectations for Group

It might be a good idea to establish some housekeeping items at your first meeting. It's always a good idea to make sure everyone is on the same page.

- Group Details
- Meeting Frequency
- Day and Time
- Duration
- Set expectations and building trust (if you say start at 6:00pm, start at 6:00pm etc)
  - Support team (contact spiritual formation team ...)



## Group Leader Resource Page



## Group Covenant



## Why Covenant?

This is a wonderful tool to help set the expectations for everyone in the group. It allows you as a group to come together and define in your own words the purpose, values and even the logistic expectations for everyone. We have created a PDF available on our group leader webpage to help you walk through your group creating their own covenant. We recommend using this guide as one of your group meetings to help you create a covenant. If your group has been meeting for a long time or is brand new this can be a useful tool. It should be a living document, review it every 6 months, change what isn't working. It also lets new people who join can see what the group is about. After someone has attended a few times it is a good idea to give them a copy and ask if there is anything they want to add or hope to get out of the group that is not represent in your covenant. A covenant is a great thing within a group because it gives freedom to every member to hold each other accountable and make sure you are heading in the direction you set out for your group.

# **Planning Center**

(for Group Leaders)



Planning Center is our internal tool for letting people know about our groups and allowing our groups to communicate.

## **Join the Group**

This is where the leader manages the roster of the group.

## **Add a Member**

This is where the leader adds a person to the group. The leader can email a person to join the group. They will only be added to the group if they click accept in the email they get.

## **Events**

This is where the leaders can create calendar events for their meetings and include information like the address and notes.

## **Attendance**

Once a meeting is created, the leaders will get an email reminder 10 minutes before the meeting reminding them to take attendance. From a phone, the leader can click on who is at the meeting.

## **Settings**

The settings tab allows the leader to update information about your group.

## **Planning Center Resources**

The resources tab is where the leader can get a weekly sermon discussion guide that is available each week. This can be used for engaging with the group. However, more options are available. See Resources Content for these options.

# Church Center App

(for every group member)



A QR code is available that will take you to the Apple or Google Play Store for the ChurchCenter App. This is for anyone in our church to use if they want. It shows upcoming churchwide events, as well as every group a person is a part of.

Group leaders can reply to join requests, create new events, and see the resources and members. If everyone in a group gets the app, it has messaging features built in as well. Under a group's members tab, there is even an add button that will give a QR code. A person can scan that code and send a request to join a specific group.

# **Resources Content**

## **Sermon Discussion Guide**

Our sermon discussion guides have questions and scripture each week based on the sermon from the previous weekend. Guides usually ask three specific questions that will now be familiar. What does this teach me about people? What does this teach me about God? How can I obey what I have learned?

## **DBS (Discover Bible Study)**

Discovery Bible Study is a simple series of questions designed to ask and answer the questions. What is God saying to me and what am I going to do about it? The questions are simple but very intentionally worded, even the order of the questions is intentional. I would challenge you to trust the system and not leave parts out of it or modify it until you have been working with it for a while.

Many group Bible study methods exist. A group leader is free to choose whatever method suits the purpose of the group.

Northeast Christian Church endorses the Discovery Bible Study method. It requires little preparation and encourages openness in the group.

God's word does what he said it would do—and the DBS helps us get out of the way so that God proves Himself faithful to His promise.

## **Thankful**

Ask: From this past week, what is something for which you are thankful?

Purpose: Positions our hearts to be grateful, models prayer, and practice gratitude and proper perspective for life

### **Challenge**

Ask: From this past week, what was challenging for you?

Purpose: Positions our hearts toward humility and that we have needs; implies we need help along the way by admitting imperfections in life and people. Notice the intentionality of not using words like "struggle" or "prayer." When many people hear these they shut down. "Challenge" works very well with everyone.

### **How Did It Go?**

Ask: How did it go last week?

Purpose: Check in with people on their "I will ..." statements from the previous week. Notice that this will begin being utilized the second time you meet.

### **Read, Read, Retell**

Ask 2 people to read the passage in full. It's helpful to read from two different translations. Ask 1 person to retell the passage in their own words. Purpose: Reading the passage out loud allows everyone to focus and learn from God's Word together. You can come as you are, ready to learn. \*In retelling, be cautious to only summarize the passage. Do not interpret. Do not include thoughts about the passage from Sunday sermons, podcasts, or a previous Bible study. Think of retelling the passage to a 10 year old.

### **Observations & Details**

Ask: What in this passage is standing out to you?

Purpose: This is a time to simply fill in the key points and observations. Again, stay in this passage only. Do not look for connects from other passages or preaching. Have one person from the group begin taking notes at this stage.

### **Learning About God**

Ask: What does this passage tell us about God or Jesus?

Purpose: If this passage is true, how does it change how I see God?  
Continue writing down everyone's answers.

### **Learning About Ourselves**

Ask: What does this passage tell us about ourselves or people?

Purpose: If this passage is true, how does it change how I treat others?  
Continue writing down everyone's answers.

### **Learning About Obedience**

Ask: What does this passage tell us about obedience?

Purpose: If this passage is true, how does it change how I live? What can I put into practice? What way of living pleases God? Continue writing down everyone's answers.

Build your "I will . . ." statement.

Purpose: Learning by doing. This last section ties everything together between God's truth and our responsive action. As you have built the list of Observations and Answers, allow everyone a few minutes to quietly examine their own hearts and ask God to direct them in their action step.



## Share

Each Ask Yourself: How will I live this out this week? Do I know anyone I can

share this story with? Or who can I share this with?

Purpose: Provokes intentionality and being "on mission" for the week.

## Challenge

Ask: In the upcoming week, what is going to be a challenge?

Purpose: We end like we began, except this time we want to know about an upcoming challenge for this next week. These challenges are a means for members to interact outside the group - to meet a need, send a text of encouragement, or let that person know you are praying for them.

## **Books Studies**

We are always willing to help you find the right book study for your group. If you need help finding a study guide, or book on a topic please reach out to our team and we will help research great options for your next study.

## **RightNow Media**

For those that are not familiar RightNow Media is the Christian Bible study version of Netflix. They host more than 20,000 Bible study videos taught by really great teachers. The church pays for this so it is free for every member. You can go to the group leader page and request access for yourself or anyone in your group.

We love RightNow Media, but I would discourage you from using it exclusively. We value connectivity and conversation and it can do a great job facilitating that conversation but you are still spending screen time in your group watching it.

# **SUPPORT TEAM**

## **Richard Mosqueda**

Email: [richard.mosqueda@necchurch.org](mailto:richard.mosqueda@necchurch.org)

Phone: (502) 212-5250

## **Colin Lyman**

Email: [colin.lyman@necchurch.org](mailto:colin.lyman@necchurch.org)

Phone: (502) 426-6668

# northeast GROUPS

## Spiritual Formation Team Agreement

The purpose of this agreement is to create a standard of life and ministry that promotes wisdom, integrity, unity, accountability, and the pursuit of excellence as volunteers at Northeast Christian Church

- I will commit to a growing relationship with Jesus and regularly attend worship services.
- I will commit to having a rule of life (*regular rhythms to grow my relationship with Jesus. Examples; bible study, prayer, fasting, scripture memorization, etc. and regular restrictions to reduce the impact of culture. Examples; reduce screen time, monitor the media I listen to, setting boundaries on the shows you watch etc.*) and if I don't have that in place I will seek counsel from my ministry leader.
- I will be a positive example for others as a follower of Jesus and strive to maintain behaviors that honor God both in church and community.
- I will seek to be an active part of the church body by participating in a small group and personally hold myself accountable to someone in a genuine, loving, iron-sharpening-iron, relationship.
- I am committed to maintaining moral, ethical, and sexual purity.
- I will be intentional in preparing for the responsibilities that I have committed to.
- I will embody the vision and uphold the values of Northeast Christian Church.
- I will adhere to the policies, expectations and procedures as outlined in the Training Manual.
- I will attend Spiritual Formation trainings/meetings
- I will communicate regularly with the people that I have been entrusted with

By signing, I agree as a volunteer of the Spiritual Formation Team to faithfully follow all aspects of the Spiritual Formation Volunteer Agreement

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_