

## SMALL GROUP LEADER EXPECTATIONS

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### PREPARATION AND FOCUS:

Do your best to come prayed up and prepared for Bible Study. Take at least 30 minutes and look over the study for the night, pray for your students, and ask God to speak into your group. If you are co-leading a group, make sure you both are clear on your roles and expectations for that night. While we know there will be times when your group goes on a “tangent” or certain needs of the students will require you to flex off your scheduled Bible Study, please do your best to make sure that a Bible Study does not just become merely a student hang out time. The friendships are important, but having them rooted in the Word of God is what will keep them over the long haul when these friends have gone their separate ways.

### COMMUNICATION:

- ⊙ **GROUP STATUS:** Keep us aware of who is in your small group- like if you add or drop members. Also let us know if your group is canceled or meeting somewhere else given a certain week so we can be accurately informed should someone be looking for your group or want to join. One great way to do this when sending group update texts or e-mails to your group is to simply add your staff team leader to your sending list.
- ⊙ **TEACHING and TEAMWORK:** If you are team teaching, make sure you’re also team communicating. Talk to one another about your teaching plan and the lives of your students. Additionally, please take the time to keep your age group pastor in the know on the basic teaching direction of your group or needs you have. We’ll be providing curriculum for the most part, but can work with you to tweak it based on the individual needs of your group.
- ⊙ **DATABASE:** We have a new Database you’re going to be hearing a lot about called CCB or Church Community Builder. As we get farther into our year, we’ll train you in this invaluable resource for connecting with your group. Please make an effort to maximize it for your group as you can.
- ⊙ **ABUSE OR HARMFUL BEHAVIOR IN STUDENTS:** Tell your age group pastor if things come up in your group that anyone with oversight over student ministries should be aware of. All cases of abuse, suicidal tendencies, or harmful behavior in a student’s life that threatens their health we have a responsibility to handle. Some cases need to be reported to governing bodies. Some do not. Please communicate with us as leaders anything that is potentially questionable so we can make a decision about how to proceed together.
- ⊙ **WITH FAMILY:** If you want to have a handle on what’s going on with a student, take some time on occasion to talk with their parent. Ie: regardless of the student, when you call home and a parent answers the phone, take a moment to introduce yourself and ask a few questions or encourage them. If you’re at church or in the community and see them together as a family, acknowledge parents too. If you can get on a parents “team”- you’ll be a long way down the road of truly influencing a student.

### PASTORING STUDENTS:

Know that a pastoral role is not just delegated to those with the title. 1 Peter 2:9 says, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” You are a God honoring shepherd of the students in your small group. There’s a good chance you’ll be invited to their birthday or soccer game long before someone with the title “paid staff” at Journey will get the call. So take that job seriously. Do your best to know the lives of the students in your group. If you have more than one leader, divide up the group and make knowing the lives of each student a team effort.

### THE SUPERHERO GROUP LEADER SYNDROME GUILT TRIP WARNING:

You can’t do everything. Not even with your small group. Love your family. Love your God. Take care of yourself. Do what you can to love on students and pray that God will do all you cannot. Know that shepherding students is a walk in faith and trust and that Jesus has your back. Ask for help.