

re:group training

PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND GROUP LEADERS



re:group Leader Training Guide

Transforming Lives Through Authentic Community

A Letter from the Heart

Dear fellow servant leader,

There's something beautiful happening in small circles across our world. In living rooms where strangers become family. Around coffee shop tables where questions find answers. In community centers where hearts open like flowers to spring rain. God is moving through the simple, sacred act of people doing life together.

You see, Jesus knew something we're still discovering—that transformation happens best in the context of relationship. When He walked this earth, He didn't build an empire or construct magnificent buildings. He gathered a small group of ordinary people and invited them to walk alongside Him. Day by day, meal by meal, conversation by conversation, He changed their lives forever.

That's exactly what you're stepping into. Not a program to manage or a curriculum to deliver, but a sacred invitation to watch God work in the beautiful mess of authentic community. Every person who will sit in your circle carries a story—some chapters filled with joy, others with tears, all precious to the heart of God.

As you prepare to lead, know this: you don't have to be perfect. You don't need all the answers. You simply need to be willing—willing to open your heart, share your story, and create space for others to do the same. God has a way of using ordinary people to do extraordinary things, and He's chosen you for this incredible adventure.

Take a deep breath. Smile. You're about to embark on one of the most rewarding journeys of your life.

With excitement for what's ahead, *Your Partners in Ministry*

IGNITE YOUR PASSION

This Is Why re:group Matters

WAKE UP TO THE INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY IN YOUR HANDS!

You're not just leading a small group—you're becoming a catalyst for **LIFE TRANSFORMATION!** Every time your group gathers, you're creating a space where:

- **Lonely hearts find belonging**

- **Broken spirits discover healing**
- **Wandering souls encounter Jesus**
- **Ordinary people become extraordinary disciples**

The statistics are staggering:

- Small groups are the **#1 way** people connect with church
- Small groups are the **#1 way** new believers grow spiritually
- Small groups are the **#1 way** to reach the next generation

But here's what really matters: You're going to witness miracles. You'll see marriages restored, addictions broken, depression lifted, and faith ignited. You'll watch people who felt invisible suddenly realize they matter deeply to God and to their community.

YOU ARE GOING TO CHANGE LIVES—AND YOUR LIFE WILL BE CHANGED TOO!

DIRECTOR'S TRAINING GUIDE

Leading the Movement

Your Vision: Creating a Movement, Not Just a Program

As **re:group Director**, you're not managing activities—you're **orchestrating a movement** that will transform your church and community! Your role is to:

CAST UNSTOPPABLE VISION

- Communicate the life-changing potential of **re:group** to leadership and congregation
- Share stories of transformation that fuel passion and participation
- Keep the vision fresh and compelling through constant innovation

BUILD EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS

- Recruit leaders who are hungry for growth and passionate about people
- Provide training that equips and inspires rather than overwhelms
- Create a leadership community where leaders support and encourage each other

DESIGN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCES

- Plan Fellowship Nights that people can't stop talking about
- Orchestrate Fusion Services that newcomers find irresistible

- Ensure every **re:group** experience exceeds expectations

Your Strategic Leadership Framework

RECRUITMENT EXCELLENCE

Find Leaders Who Will Change Everything:

- Look beyond the usual suspects—God often uses unexpected people
- Seek those who are **more interested in people than programs**
- Find individuals who are **growing spiritually** and want to help others grow
- Choose people who are **naturally relational** and authentic

The Recruitment Process:

1. **Prayer-driven identification** of potential leaders
2. **Personal invitation** that casts vision for impact
3. **Application process** that reveals heart and calling
4. **Training experience** that builds confidence and competence
5. **Mentoring relationship** that provides ongoing support

TRAINING THAT TRANSFORMS

Create Learning Experiences That Inspire:

Phase 1: Heart Preparation

- Help leaders understand their **calling and purpose**
- Share the **biblical foundation** for small group community
- Cast vision for the **eternal impact** they'll have

Phase 2: Skill Development

- Teach **group dynamics** and facilitation skills
- Practice **conflict resolution** and difficult conversations
- Learn **invitation strategies** that feel natural and effective

Phase 3: Practical Application

- Role-play various group scenarios
- Practice with curriculum and discussion guides

- Develop personal leadership style and approach

ONGOING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Monthly Leader Gatherings:

- **Celebration** of group victories and growth stories
- **Training** in new skills and strategies
- **Troubleshooting** challenges and sharing solutions
- **Vision renewal** and passion ignition

Quarterly Leadership Retreats:

- **Deep training** in advanced leadership concepts
- **Relationship building** among the leadership team
- **Strategic planning** for growth and multiplication
- **Spiritual renewal** and personal development

Your Multiplication Strategy

Create Systems That Produce Leaders:

- Every leader develops an **apprentice leader**
- Groups **multiply** when they reach 12-15 people
- New leaders emerge from **group participants**
- **Success stories** fuel recruitment of new leaders

Quality Control That Maintains Excellence:

- Regular **leader check-ins** to provide support
- **Group observation** to ensure healthy dynamics
- **Feedback systems** that promote continuous improvement
- **Resource provision** that sets leaders up for success

GROUP LEADER TRAINING GUIDE

Your Incredible Adventure Begins

YOU ARE A LIFE-CHANGER!

Congratulations—you've just stepped into one of the most rewarding roles in the kingdom! As a **re:group** leader, you're going to experience the incredible joy of watching God work in and through the lives of real people facing real challenges.

Your Foundation: Why Small Groups Work

Jesus Modeled Small Group Leadership:

- He chose **12 ordinary people** and did life with them
- He **shared meals, told stories, and answered questions** in intimate settings
- He **created safe spaces** for vulnerability and growth
- He **multiplied His impact** through relationships

You're Following the Greatest Leader in History!

Your Role: Facilitator of Transformation

You're Not Expected to Be:

- A perfect person with all the answers
- A professional counselor or therapist
- A dynamic speaker or entertainer
- Someone who has it all figured out

You ARE Called to Be:

- A **genuine person** who shares authentically
- A **caring friend** who listens well
- A **faithful guide** who points people to Jesus
- A **passionate learner** growing alongside others

Your Essential Skills

CREATING IRRESISTIBLE COMMUNITY

Make People Feel Welcome:

- **Learn everyone's name** and use it frequently
- **Arrive early** to greet people personally
- **Create comfortable seating** that encourages interaction
- **Provide simple refreshments** that say "you matter"

Build Trust Through Authenticity:

- **Share your own struggles** and growth areas
- **Admit when you don't know** answers
- **Ask for prayer** for your own needs
- **Celebrate others' victories** enthusiastically

FACILITATING LIFE-CHANGING DISCUSSIONS

Ask Questions That Go Deep:

- "How did that make you feel?"
- "What does that look like in your daily life?"
- "How is God speaking to you through this?"
- "What's one thing you want to remember from tonight?"

Handle Difficult Moments with Grace:

- **The Over-Talker:** "Let's hear from someone who hasn't shared yet."
- **The Silent Member:** "What are your thoughts, Sarah?"
- **The Arguer:** "That's an interesting perspective. What do others think?"
- **The Skeptic:** "I appreciate your honesty. Who else has wrestled with that?"

CREATING MULTIPLICATION MOMENTUM

Invitation That Feels Natural:

- **Share your own excitement** about what's happening in group
- **Tell specific stories** of how the group has impacted you
- **Invite to special events** before inviting to regular meetings
- **Make it easy** by offering to pick people up or meet them there

Developing Future Leaders:

- **Identify natural influencers** in your group
- **Give people small leadership opportunities** (opening prayer, bringing snacks)
- **Invite promising individuals** to co-facilitate discussions
- **Encourage attendance** at leadership training events

Your Group Types: Specialized Excellence

ADVENTURE GROUP LEADERSHIP

Your Mission: Create **magnetic community** through shared interests and fun activities.

Keys to Success:

- **Focus on relationship** over formal content
- **Plan activities** that naturally create conversation
- **Always include prayer** but keep it conversational
- **Invite newcomers** to every gathering
- **Look for spiritual conversation opportunities** that arise naturally

Sample Adventure Group Ideas:

- **Outdoor Adventures:** Hiking, camping, fishing, sports
- **Creative Arts:** Painting, photography, cooking, crafting
- **Urban Exploration:** Food tours, museum visits, concerts
- **Hobby Groups:** Gardening, book clubs, game nights
- **Service Adventures:** Community clean-up with lunch afterward

GROWTH GROUP LEADERSHIP

Your Mission: Facilitate **personal transformation** through intentional learning and development.

Keys to Success:

- **Choose excellent curriculum** that promotes discussion
- **Create interactive experiences** rather than lectures
- **Encourage personal application** of every lesson
- **Share your own growth journey** vulnerably
- **Celebrate progress** and breakthrough moments

Essential Growth Group Elements:

- **Opening connection time** (15 minutes)
- **Content exploration** with discussion (30 minutes)
- **Personal application** and goal setting (10 minutes)
- **Prayer and encouragement** (5 minutes)

SERVICE GROUP LEADERSHIP

Your Mission: Demonstrate **Christ's love** through practical service that transforms communities.

Keys to Success:

- **Choose meaningful projects** that align with group passions
- **Prepare thoroughly** to ensure smooth execution
- **Include reflection time** to process the service experience
- **Connect service** to spiritual growth and biblical principles
- **Celebrate impact** and share stories of lives touched

Service Group Framework:

- **Project Planning Session:** Decide what, when, where, how
- **Preparation Gathering:** Organize supplies and logistics
- **Service Event:** Execute the project together
- **Celebration Meeting:** Share stories and plan next project

Your Support System

You're Never Alone in This Journey

Monthly Leader Meetings:

- Connect with other leaders facing similar challenges
- Learn new skills and strategies for group leadership
- Share victories and receive encouragement
- Get resources and support for your specific group needs

Director Support:

- Regular check-ins to see how you're doing
- Help with difficult group situations
- Resources and curriculum recommendations
- Encouragement and prayer support

Leadership Community:

- Text or call other leaders when you need advice

- Partner with other groups for special events
- Share resources and successful strategies
- Pray for each other's groups and participants

Your Vision: What Success Looks Like

In Your Group Members, You'll See:

Growing Relationships:

- People arriving early and staying late to connect
- Group members meeting outside of official gatherings
- Genuine care and support during difficult times
- Laughter, tears, and authentic sharing

Spiritual Development:

- Questions about faith and God becoming more common
- Personal testimonies of growth and change
- Increased interest in prayer and Scripture
- Natural integration of faith into daily life discussions

Community Impact:

- Group members serving together outside the group
- Invitations extended to friends and family
- Positive reputation in the community
- Lives being transformed through authentic relationships

In Yourself, You'll Experience:

Personal Growth:

- Deeper intimacy with God through serving others
- Enhanced leadership and communication skills
- Greater confidence in sharing your faith
- Expanded capacity for loving difficult people

Ministry Fulfillment:

- Joy in watching God work through your obedience
- Stories of transformation that fuel your passion
- Relationships that enrich your life immeasurably
- A front-row seat to God's miraculous work

Multiplication Excitement:

- The thrill of raising up new leaders
 - Pride in watching your group members grow into leaders
 - Satisfaction in expanding the kingdom through relationships
 - Legacy impact that extends far beyond your group
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PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

Meeting Structure Templates

Adventure Group Format

- **Welcome & Connect** (10 minutes): Casual conversation and catching up
- **Activity Time** (40 minutes): Shared interest or fun activity
- **Wrap-Up & Prayer** (10 minutes): Brief sharing and prayer requests

Growth Group Format

- **Welcome & Check-In** (15 minutes): Personal sharing and connection
- **Content Exploration** (30 minutes): Curriculum discussion and interaction
- **Application & Prayer** (15 minutes): Personal application and group prayer

Service Group Format

- **Preparation & Planning** (20 minutes): Organize for service project
- **Service Activity** (varies): Execute the planned service
- **Reflection & Celebration** (15 minutes): Process the experience and pray

Discussion Starter Questions

For Getting to Know Each Other:

- "What's the best part of your week so far?"
- "If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be and why?"

- "What's something you're grateful for today?"
- "What's a goal you're working toward right now?"

For Going Deeper:

- "How has God been speaking to you lately?"
- "What's something you're learning about yourself?"
- "Where do you need encouragement right now?"
- "How can we pray for you this week?"

For Application:

- "What's one thing from tonight that you want to remember?"
- "How might God want you to apply this in your life?"
- "What's one step you could take this week?"
- "Who in your life needs to hear about this?"

Crisis Response Guidelines

When Someone Shares Something Heavy:

- **Thank them** for their courage in sharing
- **Ask if they want advice** or just need to be heard
- **Offer specific support:** "Can we bring you dinner this week?"
- **Follow up privately** after the meeting
- **Know when to refer** to professional counseling

Maintaining Confidentiality:

- "What's shared here, stays here"
 - **Model discretion** in your own sharing
 - **Address breaches** quickly and directly
 - **Create safety** through consistent trustworthiness
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YOUR CALL TO GREATNESS

This Is Your Moment

You've been chosen for this incredible adventure not because you're perfect, but because God sees something special in you. He knows you have exactly what it takes to create authentic community where lives are transformed.

Every great movement in history started with ordinary people who said "yes" to something bigger than themselves. You're joining a legacy that includes:

- The disciples who turned the world upside down
- John Wesley's small groups that sparked revival
- Modern leaders who've seen millions come to faith through small group community

Your group will be different because you're leading it. Your personality, your story, your unique way of loving people—that's exactly what God wants to use.

The Adventure Begins Now

Step forward with confidence. Trust God's calling on your life. Embrace the beautiful mess of authentic community. And get ready for the incredible joy of watching God work through your obedience.

The world needs what you have to offer.

Your community is waiting for authentic connection.

God is ready to do immeasurably more than you can imagine.

Welcome to the adventure of re:group leadership!

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." - Hebrews 10:24-25