

New Group Leader Guide

Thank you for stepping out in faith to lead a group with Hope. As a new leader, it is essential for you to understand your role in the bigger picture of God's plan to reach the Triangle and change the world. We believe your role is vital for the church to fulfill the Great Commission and we want to equip you to thrive as a leader.

Phase 1: How to Thrive as a Healthy Leader and Launch a Healthy Group

1. Leadership Expectations
2. Tools to Help you Grow in Relationship with Jesus
3. Steps to Launch a Healthy Group

Phase 2: How to create a safe place to love people where they are.

1. How to welcome new people and cultivate authentic relationships.
2. How to care for each other inside and outside the group.
3. How to keep the Gospel in the center of your group.

Phase 3: How to encourage your group to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ.

1. How to make a growth plan for your group each season.
2. How to facilitate a great Biblical Discussion that leads to transformation not just information.
3. How to create a culture of life change.

Phase 4: Reach: How to empower your group to live on mission with Jesus

1. How to create a culture of invitation for new people.
2. How to encourage your group prioritize living on mission where they live, learn, work, and play.
3. How to develop and multiply leaders.

Vision and Mission of Groups at Hope

- **Hope's vision:** Reach the Triangle and change the world.
- **Hope's mission:** Love people where they are and encourage them to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Mission of Groups:** Create a safe place for people to learn to live on mission with Jesus Christ.

In our increasingly post-Christian culture, the reality is less, and less people are waking up thinking, "I need to go to church to help me with my problems." That's why we can't expect people to come to our church buildings to find Jesus, we need to be willing to go them. People need the hope of the Gospel even if they don't realize it. However, they may be more likely to find Jesus with a friend they trust in a smaller group where they can open up about their lives than in a building with people they don't know.

That's why groups are such an important strategy and your role as a leader is so essential to Jesus' mission. ***Groups exist to create a safe place for people to learn to live on mission with Jesus Christ.***

- **A safe place:** to belong, connect intentionally, be loved where they are, and engage the Gospel.
- **To learn:** to be established in the truth of God's Word and encouraged to grow in relationship with Jesus in a supportive community.
- **Live on mission:** to discover their role to live on mission where they live, learn, work, and play.

Groups are not a place to keep us safe from a scary world, but a way to help others discover the Gospel in a supportive community that is changing the world.

The Church We Must Become

As a leader you are part of a bigger movement of people creating these safe places to reach different neighborhoods and networks of people all over the Triangle. In the coming years, we believe God is leading us to build a growing network of groups reaching over 100,000 people learning to follow Jesus!

As a group leader, we want to come alongside of you to support, equip, and empower you to grow in your own relationship with Jesus and live on mission with Him in today's world.

In your group leader training, you will learn how to:

- Thrive as a healthy leader and launch a healthy group.
- Create a safe place for people to be loved wherever they are and engage the Gospel.
- Encourage people to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and become established in faith.
- Empower people to live on mission with Jesus in their everyday life and relationships.

Thank you for partnering with Hope to reach the Triangle and Change the world.