

The
"Give Me the
Nitty-Gritty"
Guide

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Growth Group Facilitator – What Do I Do Next?

Ok, so I'm ready to make the move, now what?

1. Pray. Moses said, "Lord, if you don't go before us, I ain't going (Mario's paraphrase). The bottom line is that this is the Lord's endeavor so invite Him to be a part of the process.
2. Get in touch with CMC (mario.white@christmemorial.net) to let us know you are in.
3. Decide on what your topic will be and create a syllabus.
4. Attend the membership meeting on Sunday, August 22, if you are not currently a member.
5. Review the this guide to familiarize yourself with the details of facilitating a growth group.
6. Send all of the pertinent information needed to Heather Akland (heather.akland@christmemorial.net).
7. Start inviting people to your group!
8. Attend the mandatory meeting on Sunday, September 19.

Growth Group Responsibilities

WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF A GROUP?

- Starts and stops based on the CMC group calendar
- Strives to have 12-17 members
- Hosts a social setting for people to connect

WHAT DOES MY GROWTH GROUP DO?*

- Meets and prays together once a week
- Serves and plays together once per semester (Oct – Mid Dec)
- Provides a space to for relationships to be built
- Has intentional conversations that help each other take their next steps toward Christ that are directed by:
 - The Bible,
 - an approved Christian book or
 - the current CMC Growth Group Discussion Guide.

*These are detailed below

Meets and Prays:

Host the group and find a suitable place for your group to meet. Everyone having a place to sit is a good start; five course meals can also be good. Pray together before you are done. It is going to be hard for anyone to take their next step towards Christ unless you are asking for His help. And no, "please bless this food amen" does not count.

Serves and Plays:

Get out of the house! Go and find a ministry project to support; it may be working with our students or kids for a special event. You may choose to clean up your neighborhood park or serve at a local mission. Whatever you do, do it together! All work and no play makes you a dull facilitator! Plan a day to just play with your group. If you can't think of anything just grab some water balloons, tennis rackets and shopping carts and see what happens.

Develop Relationships:

Help people feel open to share. We know you're not Dr. Phil but you are to be a facilitator of good conversation. The only way for your group to get to know someone is to listen to what they have to say. Help some people to shut their mouths and others open their mouths. You will all be hugging before you know it.

Take Steps Towards Christ:

We don't want any groups wandering around in the desert any longer than they have to. Help your group members to figure out what their next step might be and hold them to it! Some people will be stretched to show up every week. Others may be working on a new translation of the New Testament. Find out where people are at and help them move forward! Don't know where people are at? Ask 'em! (You might be surprised to find out that these people have recently signed up for a small group and are looking for discipleship!)

“The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership” Growth Group SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Welcome to your Fall 2010 “The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership” Growth Group. Our group will meet every Wednesday @ 7 am beginning Wednesday, October 6 through Wednesday, December 22.

We will be reading the book “*The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*” by John C. Maxwell and will be learning how to become better and godlier leaders – in our workplace, in the church, in our homes and in every area of our life. During our group time each week we will discuss the previous week’s readings and develop friendships through talking together, playing together and praying together. Come to the group prepared to participate in discussion each week.

Below is a week by week syllabus for our group. *Note the dates that we are scheduled to SERVE together and PLAY together.*

Wednesday, October 6 —	Introduction, Group Orientation, Growth Group Covenants
*Homework for October 13	<i>Read Laws 1 & 2 (pp. 1-20)</i>
Wednesday, October 13 —	The Law of the Lid & The Law of Influence
*Homework for October 20	<i>Read Laws 3 & 4 (pp. 21-42)</i>
Wednesday, October 20 —	The Law of Process & The Law of Navigation
*Homework for October 27	<i>Read Laws 5 & 6 (pp. 43-66)</i>
Wednesday, October 27 —	The Law of E.F. Hutton & The Law of Solid Ground
*Homework for November 3	<i>Read Laws 7 & 8 (pp. 67-88)</i>
Wednesday, November 3 —	The Law of Respect & The Law of Intuition
*Homework for November 10	<i>Read Laws 9 & 10 (pp. 89-108)</i>
Wednesday, November 10 —	The Law of Magnetism & The Law of Connection
*Homework for November 17	<i>Read Laws 11 & 12 (pp. 109-132)</i>
Wednesday, November 17 —	The Law of Connection & The Law of the Inner Circle
*Homework for November 24	<i>Read Laws 13 & 14 (pp. 133-152)</i>
Wednesday, November 24	The Law of Reproduction & The Law of Buy-In

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***Homework for December 1** *Read Laws 15 & 16 (153-174)*
Wednesday, December 1 The Law of Victory & The Law of the Big Mo

—
***Homework for December 8** *Read Laws 17 & 18 (175-192)*
Wednesday, December 8 The Law of Priorities & The Law of Sacrifice

—
***Homework for December 8** *Read Laws 19-21 (193-228)*
Wednesday, December 8 Revelation & Beyond

—
Week of December 15 *GG Party/Fun Event*

SERVE TOGETHER DATE *(Touch Twice date is Sat. Nov 20th)*

PLAY GROUP DATE:

Growth Group Facilitator Requirements & Responsibilities

What is required to be a group facilitator?

1. Must be a church member (A first-time facilitator can be a regular attender headed toward membership)
2. Must faithfully attend CMC on Sundays.
3. Must be willing to facilitate the group within the structure of CMC's Growth Group ministry.
4. Must have been a member of a previous GG.
5. Must have served as an apprentice in the past.
6. Must be willing to attend group facilitators training (1 for each semester).
7. Must be committed to raising new facilitators.

Responsibilities:

- 1) Makes the Growth Group a priority by preparing beforehand and inviting/welcoming others to join the group.
- 2) Cares for the people in Growth Group.
- 3) Strives to create an environment of growth in the group.

Growth Group Covenant (each participant fill out one of these)

Welcome to Fall 2010 Growth Groups at Christ Memorial Church. Congratulations on your desire to grow deeper in your relationship with God, the church and the community through this weekly study and the relationships that will begin in this Growth Group.

As a member of this group, you will be asked to enter into a covenant with the other members to make this Growth Group a priority. To be a part of the group, you are asked to make the following commitments:

- 1) **Personal Growth** - I will honestly explore my next steps for spiritual growth.

- 2) **Connect to the Group** - I will make this group a priority by planning to attend each week, keeping up with my assignments and participating openly in group discussion.

- 3) **Connect to CMC @ Large** - I will regularly attend Sunday services and contribute to the ministry of the church through my attendance, giving, service, and inviting of others.

- 4) **Relationships** - I will strive to build authentic relationships with those in this group by showing care, providing encouragement and praying for their needs. I will also PLAY together with my group at least once.

- 5) **Connect to the Community** - I will serve together with my group at least once during the semester.

Name

Date

Growth Group FAQ's

ON GROWTH GROUP PHILOSOPHY

Q. What is a Growth Group?

A. *Simply put, Growth Groups are places for people to connect and “do life” together. They are safe, comfortable, stress-free places where individuals have the opportunity to meet new people, make new friends, learn something new and grow spiritually within a social context.*

Q. Why do you have Growth Groups?

A. *At CMC, we feel that it is very important for people to connect outside of a Sunday service. Growth Groups provide a way for people to meet others with common interests in hopes of building lasting relationships.*

Q. What makes Growth Groups different from traditional small groups?

A. *Four things make Growth Groups unique:*

- 1. They last 11 weeks at a time*
- 2. They are based around people's common interests*
- 3. They find a way to serve and play together*
- 4. They typically have 12-15 people in them instead of 6-8.*

ON TEACHING TOPICS

Q. What topics can I teach?

A. *We have a list of approved resources and you can obtain them by contacting Heather Akland (heather.akland@christmemorial.net). They are on a checkout system so, first come, first served.*

Q. What if none of the topics interest me or I want to do my own topic?

A. *We encourage people to venture out and try new ideas! If it is not on the list, contact Mario (mario.white@christmemorial.net) to get the topic approved. Our desire is to set you up for success and part of that is having curriculum that is doctrinally in line with CMC as well as a topic that will capture a large audience. You will need to create the curriculum to last 9 weeks.*

ON LEADERSHIP

Q. What are the requirements to become a Growth Group Facilitator?

A. *We try to keep it simple. While it takes more than breathing, it doesn't require a PhD in group leading. Just refer to the “Growth Group Facilitator Requirements & Responsibilities” sheet found in this folder.*

Q. How do I become a GG Facilitator?

A. *Simple! Email Mario (mario.white@christmemorial.net) or fill out the application included in this folder to start the simple process.*

Q. Do I have to lead a group all three semesters throughout the year?

A. *Nope! In fact, we ask you not to. We understand that some seasons are more difficult than others. Serve for the two that work best for you!*

Q. I want to facilitate a group but I don't want to do it at my house. Are there other options?

A. *We hope so. You can ask those in your group if they are open to hosting it or even rotating houses. CMC also attempts to create a list of possible host homes for groups.*

Q. I want to have a babysitter at our group but I don't know of any. Any ideas?

A. *Yes! Simply contact Mario (mario.white@christmemorial.net) for the most current list of CMC-approved babysitters. It is our hope to remove any barriers to people coming to your group!*

ON PARTICIPATING IN A GROWTH GROUP

Q. How do I sign up for a GG?

A. *When the group promotion month is open (Sept, Jan, and May), simply sign up during the service, out in the lobby or online at www.christmemorial.net.*

Q. Do all groups require me to purchase a book?

A. *Not necessarily. Each group is unique. You will need to read the description to determine whether a book is required.*

Q. Do the groups provide childcare?

A. *If listed in the description, then yes. Groups that offer childcare often request some small donation that is thrown into the "pot" to help pay the babysitter.*

Q. What if I don't like my group?

A. *We strive to make all of our groups an enjoyable spot. However, the reality is that not everyone will be a good match for you. You can feel free to try a different one within the first two weeks. The beauty is that in just a short time, all the groups will be brand new which will make for new possibilities.*

