

SMALL  
PRAYER  
GROUP  
LEADER  
HANDBOOK

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## Effective Small Prayer Group Leadership

Small Prayer Groups are an integral part of spiritual growth. If you are a Small Prayer Group Leader, you believe this, so you are working hard to nurture the relationships and spiritual vitality of your members. Your group is probably much more to you than a responsibility; it likely feels more like a family - which is exactly how it should be.

Many people wonder what makes a Small Prayer Group Leader great, or impactful. Another thing people think about is why some Small Prayer Groups continually grow while others flounder and shrink. The answer to these questions, in short, is this: a leader's effectiveness revolves around character and habits exhibited outside of the Small Prayer Group.

Because Small Prayer Groups are important, and because it takes a great leader to make it thrive, I have highlighted a few important characteristic-building actions that these leaders perform consistently.

## Prayer

As Small Prayer Group Leader, keep a prayer journal (or any discreet way of recording information) with you. As prayer requests, praises, or concerns arise, jot them down. Pray for these items throughout the week, and when you think of it, call, text or email those individual that you're praying for so they can remember how much you care.

There's no need to share these requests with anyone outside of the Small Prayer Group, unless the member agrees that you share this info with the Pastors and/or the prayer team. Earn trust and build confidence by keeping things relatively private, that is, between you, your group, and God. If non-private needs arise - deaths, or any other significant life changes - consider reaching out to the Leadership and Care team. Always be on a lookout for ways to bless and encourage your group members.

Keep in mind, a great Small Group leader views prayer as a non-negotiable aid in their ministry to others. They build it into their daily schedules and make it a priority.

## Accessible

A welcoming environment sets the stage for effective Small Prayer Group ministry. As a leader, you play an important role in establishing and promoting this foundation. By being aware of and willing to assimilate new members, you contribute to a welcoming environment.

You can have your group members brainstorm ways you can help everyone feel welcome and included. Again, as a leader, you need to model an attitude of openness that fosters inclusion.

We are accessible when we model honesty, transparency, and vulnerability. When you practice accessibility, you not only invite members into your group; you also invite them into your life.

## Caring

When you interact with group members' comments, it shows that you hear and care about them as individuals. As a leader you need to communicate love and care through words and actions to all group members and visitors.

This genuine care will show itself as you acknowledge group members as individuals. Your group might celebrate special days together, such as members' birthdays. You may lead a discussion about what the

group wants to do for special occasions, including holidays. These celebrations don't need to be formal; it's more important that they serve as a vehicle for group members to care for one another.

## Connected

An effective leader will take advantage of the many ways available to help their group members stay connected. For example, knowing a member's preferred method of contact ensures that they never miss any communication. In this day and age we have lots of methods to stay connected, you may want to find one method that works best for all group members.

We find examples of this level of connection in the life of Paul as he worked and approached people in ways he believed they could relate to, for the purpose of teaching the gospel. He said, "to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." 1 Corinthians 9:22 NKJV.

Staying connected helps to keep members engaged between group sessions. This is especially important when a member misses a session. It is also important to reach out to those who are doing well, attend group sessions regularly or haven't shared a prayer request in a while. They need your encouragement just as much as everyone else.

Here are a few things you can do to stay connected with your group members:

- Call
- Send a text
- Send an email
- Send an e-card
- Mail a greeting card

## Equipping

As a leader, it is your job to build an environment where spiritual and personal growth is experienced. The best way you can equip and assist your group members is to point them to Jesus. As you offer Scripture in context, you encourage your group members to read and discover the truth in God's Word for themselves.

When you actively listen as members share during the group's sessions, you equip them to engage with everyone, not just the leader. You can promote effective discussion when you encourage the members to ask and answer questions. Effective questioning strategies include asking open-ended questions and questions that help members clarify their understanding of the discussion topic.

## Sensitive

A sensitive leader needs to know and understand the comfort level of their members and encourage them to participate as they want to. Many people are willing to share once invited if they feel they'll be heard.

An effective leader understands the value of "wait time." Wait time allows members to think about their responses. Since some people need more time to process than others, wait time gives everyone equal opportunity to interact with the content, even if only a few verbally respond.

A tangible way to show sensitivity to members is in your approach to group sharing or prayer time. Assuring them that no one need to feel pressured to share or pray aloud removes tension among the members.

Here are a few things that can help lead your group sensitively:

- Do not do all the talking. The best leaders facilitate conversations, keeping it moving from member to member, rather than dispensing information.
- Decide to be comfortable with silence. Realize that through silence, the Holy Spirit is working.
- Be a good listener. James 1:19 says, "My dear brothers and sisters, always be willing to listen and slow to speak." The point: STOP TALKING; LISTEN INSTEAD. A great leader listens with their eyes, ears, and heart.
- Remind the group why it exists. Your job as a leader is to cast a compelling vision. Keep that purpose at the forefront of every group meeting.
- No "cross talk". Be considerate while they are sharing.
- Involve everyone.
- Here are more [tips for facilitating a group discussions](#).

## Conclusion

It's exciting to participate with God in His business of loving people and drawing them closer to Him. Your effectiveness as a Small Prayer Group Leader begins with this truth we can claim before interacting with anyone from our group: the access God gives each of us to Himself.

Praying for your group means recognizing that the ministry is in God's hands, not yours. Any doubts or fears you have as a Small Prayer Group Leader are calmed by the peace God gives. As you look to Him, He enables you to effectively lead your Small Prayer Group members and guide them to access God. Trust in His power and lean on Him for support and guidance.

Small Prayer Group Leaders who are great realize that the ministry belongs to God and can place the results - numerical growth, discipleship, etc. - in His hands.

## Resources for your Small Prayer Group

### Planning Center - Groups

Planning Center Online (Groups) is M633 Small Prayer Groups management program. This will allow you to keep a database of your Small Prayer Group member's information, set up events, check attendance, send emails to the group, and post resources for the group.

To learn how to set this up on your phone, visit [www.633movement.com/small-prayer-groups-leaders](http://www.633movement.com/small-prayer-groups-leaders) for a walkthrough video.

### Enter The Power Now (ETPN)

ETPN is considered the "Netflix" of M633 Movement and Warrior Nation Ministries. There are many teachings that would be perfect for your Small Prayer Group. And not only that, but your entire group can have access to ETPN to use in their own families!

### Gaining Access to ETPN

You can access ETPN using this link: [www.enterthepowernow.com](http://www.enterthepowernow.com).

### Physical Curriculum

There are semesters we will have curriculum. During these semesters, the weekly curriculum will be emailed out on Sunday.

On semesters that we do not have curriculums, the sessions will be conducted book club style, and the Small Prayer Group Leader is in-charge of their own curriculum.

This will be advised prior to the semester starting.

# Small Prayer Group Leader Expectations

## Personal Expectation

A Small Prayer Group Leader should have a growing relationship with the Lord and exhibit fruit that demonstrates that relationship (Galatians 5:22-23). This should also include being involved at M633 Church by attending services and events when possible.

## Time commitments

Most weeks there will be a 2 and 1/2 hour time commitment.

- 1 hour of Small Prayer Group preparation
- 1 and 1/2 hours on the designated day your group meets
- Occasional trainings will take more time

## Small Group Leader Training

Ongoing education and training is vital to the success of any role. You will be expected to engage in the following trainings:

- All-Leader Training

## Progress Report

Small Prayer Group Leaders must record weekly reports on the following:

- Attendance
- Testimonials
- Group Temperature

## Communication

Small Prayer Group Leaders must communicate with their group members. Communication includes:

- Responding to potential new member inquiries
- Admitting new members to the group and sending welcome emails
- Updating members on any changes, virtual platform, book or curriculum for the semester, etc.
- General check-in of members