



Intentional Small Group Guide

Here at OHC, we believe that the **real life-change** that disciples are called to happens best in small groups. Small groups provide a safe space to talk about deep things, care and support through difficult seasons, and accountability for fighting sin and living like Jesus.

What We Love

Here's some reasons that we love intentional small groups:

- They're **portable**. You don't need church access, curriculum, training materials, a degree, etc.
- They **develop leaders**. You move naturally from following Jesus, to leading others, to helping them lead others.
- They **multiply**. Growing disciples through multiplication is exponentially more effective than addition.

Core Purposes

The **purposes** of an intentional small group can be summed up by the acronym DNA:

- Discipleship
- Nurture
- Accountability

Discipleship is the process of becoming someone who lives, loves, and leads like Jesus. This takes time, consistency, and the help of God's people, the church.

Nurture, or caring for one another, is one of the Bible's most consistent commands for Christians. It's how we experience God's

love in tangible ways, persevere through hard times, and become more like Jesus.

Accountability is one of God's most significant tools for personal growth. Having trusted friends to encourage you, remind you of the promises of God, gently call out your sin, and point you back to Jesus is vital to your growth in the Lord.

Structure

In short, the structure of an intentional small group should look something like this:

- **Meet weekly**. Consistent time together is important for building trusting relationships.
- **3-5 people**. Two people is addition rather than multiplication, and can be awkward. More than five can be too big for everyone to be vulnerable and feel comfortable sharing.
- **Same gender**. This is essential for confession and accountability.
- **Read Scripture**. Aim to have folks read the passage for discussion ahead of time, so that people come prepared with thoughts and questions.
- **SOAP**. This is a great way to process a passage and dig in deeper.
- **Show up and be real**. Growth only happens when you're open, vulnerable, and available.

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. – Ephesians 4:15-16