

CONNECT GROUPS

NEW LEADER TRAINING

Dear Connect Group Leader,

Thanks so much for stepping up to lead a group at PVC. It is our desire that everyone at Park Valley be part of a Connect Group. We appreciate your doing your part to accomplish this.

The Bible reminds us many times that life change happens in the context of relationships. As you lead your group and relationships develop you will see God work through the people he has placed in your group. This is all part of his amazing plan.

Thank you for taking the time to attend this training.

John Mozingo
Connect Group Pastor

WHY WE DO CONNECT GROUPS

- Life Change Happens in the Context of Relationships
- It fulfills the commands of scripture
- It models the early church—Acts 5:42, *And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."*
- Everyone needs personal attention
- Discipleship is not one size fits all

HOW WE ARE ORGANIZATION

- PVC utilizes a Free Market Connect Group Ministry—Group leaders determine the direction of the group based on the needs and desires of group members.
- Group Types
 - Sports and Recreation
 - Eat together
 - Pray together
 - Bible/Book Study
 - Ministry
 - If you want to start a ministry, start a group
 - If you are passionate about it, then it is likely that there are three or four others at PVC that are just as passionate.

CONNECT GROUP VALUES

Be Flexible

Relationships are a Priority

- Life change takes place in the context of relationships
Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. James 5:16
- Bible study, discussion and prayer may be a part of your group, but relationships are the priority
- No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care.
 - Caring for your group members
 - Meals
 - Hospital Visits
 - Communicating outside of group

Be Authentic

- Be Real Don't pretend to be something or someone you are not.
- Be Transparent Let your group see how God has worked in your life.

And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. 1 Peter 3:15

Maintain Confidentiality: what happens at group stays at group!

Celebrate Life Change

- Salvation
- Baptism
- Answered Prayer

Promote Church Unity

- The second to the last thing Jesus prayed was that the church would experience unity, John 17
- Unity demonstrates Jesus' love to the world

Communicate Well and Often

- Communicate with your group
- Communicate with church leadership
- Make sure PVC emails do not go to your spam folder

Utilizing ONLINE RESOURCES—<https://parkvalleychurch.groupvitals.com>

- Helps PVC to track connect group participation
- Makes record keeping and communication easier for group leaders
- Group leaders can invite people to groups
- PVC will:
 - Create and edit group details, location and schedule
 - Make your group searchable/non-searchable
- Group leaders will:
 - Take attendance weekly
 - Communicate with group members
 - Respond to prospects within 48 hours
 - Add/invite people to group roster
 - Maintain group privacy online
- Other Resources

MATERIALS

- We encourage the use of RightNowMedia.com. There are over 10k videos to choose from for free. If your group desires to use materials that are not included on Right Now Media, the group will be responsible for the cost of videos and printed material.
- All study material not included on Right Now Media must be approved by PVC
- If your material requires homework, be flexible. Don't let homework discourage someone from attending.
- Initially, the leader should choose the material. Group input can come after the group is well established

A WORD ABOUT LEADING YOUR GROUP

Park Valley is a non-denominational church; therefore many different denominations may be represented in your group. As a leader, it is important that our discussions and methods reflect unity with the practices and statement of faith of Park Valley Church. If there is ever a question concerning what PVC believes and teaches, please contact the small group pastor.

SHARED LEADERSHIP—don't try to do it all alone

Discover your group members' gifts and allow them to take on some responsibility. Let them lead, teach, pray, organize, and provide the refreshments.

PLANNING YOUR GROUP SCHEDULE

Goal: To create a yearlong plan of study, ministry, and fellowship for your group.

- A plan creates anticipation
- A plan increases participation
- A plan includes the ideas of your group members
- A plan creates opportunity

PVC utilizes a Three Trimester System

- To create momentum
- To create an on ramp
- To offer opportunity to switch groups

PVC Group Calendar

- January—promote spring trimester
- February-April—13-week spring trimester
- May—promote summer trimester
- June-August—13-week summer trimester
- August—promote fall trimester
- September-November—13-week fall trimester
- December—groups involved in Christmas outreach events, Christmas themed study, have a group Christmas celebration, take a short break.

Your plan should include:

- Holidays
- Church Events
- Study Material
- Opportunities to serve
- Opportunities to fellowship
- Intentional opportunities to invite new people to group
- Breaks

Group Leader Tip

Be intentional with each day that your group meets. There are 52 potential meetings per year. Make sure they all have a purpose.

YOUR FIRST MEETING

- Make it simple (no one needs more work)
 - Nothing that will make them uncomfortable
 - Have a _____ flexible _____ agenda
- Make it _____ social _____
 - Introduce each other
 - Have name tags
 - Serve a beverage and light snack
- Make it _____ strategic _____
 - Get acquainted

- Communicate goals
- Communicate next steps
- When do we meet
- What do we bring
- Give them an out—“We understand that this group may not be for everyone and that is okay...”

NEXT STEPS (TWO WEEKS)

- Choose a day and time to meet
- Get set up online
- Invite two or more people to join you
- Start your group

Connect Groups and Childcare

Some helpful suggestions

1. Everyone gets their own babysitter.
2. Use the homes of two members who live close to each other. Have your meeting at one home and have childcare at the other home provided by a baby sitter or rotating group members.
3. Dedicate one room in the house for childcare and bring a babysitter to the meeting place. Each family can contribute money for childcare costs.
4. Rotate two members out of the group on a weekly basis to provide childcare in another room of the house. In this way there will be no cost to anyone in the group. But never rotate out a married couple; instead send to women or two men so that relationships are built.
5. Market your group as a family group where children are allowed to play in the same room as the meeting. This works best when the children are very small and are not likely to catch much of what is being said. Or children elementary age and older can participate with the group. The positive side to this is that the families learn together. The negative is that you will need to limit talk about adult issues or use of adult humor.
6. High school students from the church could provide childcare as their ministry project. This is an excellent way to team up with the youth ministry and give teens a chance to serve.
7. Trade childcare with another group. If your group meets on Tuesday and you know of another group that meets on Thursday, offer to watch their children while they meet and ask them to do the same for your group. This will remove the burden of cost.

One Year Plan for Connect Group

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One Year Plan for Connect Group--Sample

1	1/1	No Group—New Years Day	You could also celebrate as a group
2	1/8	Simplify, Bill Hybels	Take Spiritual Health Assessment
3	1/15	Simplify	Discuss Spiritual Health Goals and Plan
4	1/22	Simplify	Discuss invites to new members
5	1/29	Simplify	Target and pray for new members
6	2/5	Love and Respect, Eggerichs	Begin Winter Trimester, Invite new members
7	2/12	Love and Respect	
8	2/19	Love and Respect	
9	2/26	Love and Respect	
10	3/5	Love and Respect	
11	3/12	Love and Respect	
12	3/19	Love and Respect	
13	3/26	Love and Respect	
14	4/2	Love and Respect	
15	4/9	Dinner and A Movie	
16	4/16	No Group—Easter	Volunteer together at Easter services
17	4/23	Love and Respect	
18	4/30	Love and Respect	
19	5/7	Ministry weekend	Volunteer at Vint Hill Transitional Housing
20	5/14	Pot Luck	
21	5/21	Group Movie Night	The Shack
22	5/28	Memorial Day Weekend—cookout	Great time to invite new people
23	6/4	James, Francis Chan	Begin Summer Trimester
24	6/11	James	Discuss summer schedule and Ministry opportunity
25	6/18	James	
26	6/25	James	
27	7/2	No Group—Fourth of July Weekend	Could celebrate together/invite guests
28	7/9	No Group—vacations	
29	7/16	No Group—vacations	
30	7/23	PVC Sermon Notes	
31	7/30	PVC Sermon Notes	Discuss Fall Calendar
32	8/6	James	Take Spiritual Health Assessment
33	8/13	James	Discuss Spiritual Health Goals and Plan
34	8/20	James	Discuss potential new members
35	8/27	James	Target and pray for new members
36	9/2	No Group—Labor Day Weekend	Group could celebrate together/invite guests
37	9/10	Discovering God's Will, Stanley	Begin Fall Trimester, invite new members
38	9/17	Discovering God's Will	
39	9/24	Discovering God's Will	
40	10/1	Discovering God's Will	
41	10/8	Discovering God's Will	
42	10/15	Discovering God's Will	
43	10/22	Discovering God's Will	
44	10/29	No Group—Trunk or Treat	Group members serve at Trunk or Treat
45	11/5	Discovering God's Will	
46	11/12	Christmas Time is Here, Jack Graham	
47	11/19	Christmas Time is Here	
48	11/26	No Group—Thanksgiving	
49	12/3	Christmas Time is Here	
50	12/10	Christmas Time is Here	
51	12/17	Group Christmas Celebration	
52	12/24	No Group—Christmas Eve	Group could attend/serve Christmas Eve together
53	12/31	No Group—New Year's Eve	You could also celebrate with your group

GROUP LEADER AGREEMENT

Name _____

- I have accepted Jesus as my savior and understand that the saving grace of Jesus is the only way that anyone can receive salvation
- I have been scripturally baptized, after my salvation experience, by submersion
- I have completed all four Growth Track Classes
- I am a member of Park Valley Church

- I agree with the following five essentials of Bible doctrine
 - Jesus is God, not just a prophet or good teacher.
 - The Bible is completely true and from God, not an invention of man.
 - Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin.
 - Jesus' death on the cross satisfied the necessary payment for sin.
 - Jesus literally rose from the dead and will one day return to the earth.

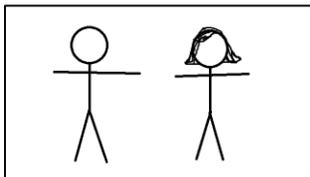
- With God's help and to the best of my ability, I agree to conduct myself in such a way that is complicit with the teachings of the Bible and to refrain from behaviors and habits that could cause other believers to stumble.

- I will not serve alcohol at any group events.

- I agree to represent and support the teaching and methods of Park Valley Church and to consult a pastor when I have questions or concerns.

"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.' " And he said, "'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.'

Matthew 19:4-5



Signed _____ Date _____