

GROUP LEADER GUIDE

As a group leader, you play a vital role in shepherding people through our FORWARD journey. This is about more than giving—it's a discipleship opportunity to grow in faith, generosity, and mission together. As you create a space for honest conversations, point people to God's Word, and help them prayerfully consider their next step... God will do the heart work.

YOUR ROLE AS A LEADER

- **Be a member:** Just experience FORWARD as a church member. Prayerfully consider how you will participate with our church family as we go on this journey together. Dream about how you would love to see God work in and through our church family for generations to come.
- **Be an example:** Share your own giving experience—the doubts, the faith steps, the stories of God's provision. Show your group how you are seeking the Lord and posturing your heart through this journey.
- **Pray:** Cover your group members in prayer before, during, and after your meetings.
- **Guide, don't pressure:** Your focus should be on spiritual growth, not fundraising. Just encourage everyone in your group to seek the Lord on how He wants them to participate.
- **Keep pointing to the mission:** Help your group see the connection of the FORWARD vision to making disciples locally and globally.

LEADING THE DISCUSSIONS

Before Each Meeting

- Attend worship each week and take notes during the sermon.
- Read through the questions for that week in the FORWARD guide (we will receive these on October 5). Consider what questions would be good to add to help your group grow as disciples.
- Watch the weekly update for our Group Leader team that will be available on the Leader Hub.
- Pray for open hearts and discernment.
- Do you or someone in your group have a story that connects with that week's theme? Reach out before the meeting and ask them to share with the group.

During the Meeting

- **Welcome & Fellowship (5–10 minutes)**
 - Spend a few minutes catching up and encouraging each other.
 - Open with Scripture & Prayer (5 minutes)
- Example: "Tonight, let's read Ephesians 3:20 and ask God to help us understand and apply His word together."
- **Connect the Vision (5 minutes)**
 - Briefly remind the group of the big picture: FORWARD is about making an impact in our church, our city, and the nations for the glory of Jesus for generations to come! Help your group dream about what the Lord would do in and through us as we work together towards this goal!
- **Discuss the Week's Scripture and Theme (25 minutes)**
 - Use the discussion questions in the FORWARD guide book.
 - Add or change the questions to fit the needs of your group.
 - Use open-ended questions like:
 - What excites you about what God could do through us in the next 20 years?
 - How have you experienced God's provision when you took a step of faith?
 - What does generosity mean to you?
- **Encourage Story-Sharing (10 minutes)**
 - "Has anyone ever experienced God surprising you when you gave sacrificially?"
 - "What's one area where God might be inviting you to trust Him more?"
- **Close in Prayer (10 minutes)**
 - Use the prayer prompts in the discussion guide and pray for courage, unity, and joyful obedience.

Thank you for your faithfulness as a Group Leader. The Lord is working through you to encourage and grow the members of your group. Your role throughout the year is vital to the mission of our church. And, thank you for going on this FORWARD journey with us.

"NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE..." EPHESIANS 3:20