

Cloverdale Baptist Church



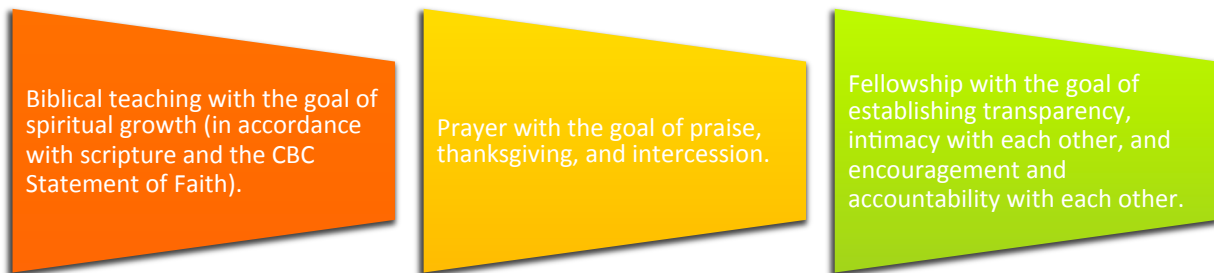
Growth Group Leader's Guide

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Growth Group Purpose Statement

Growth Groups will engage in three main activities as they meet, based on the model of Acts 2:42—



In addition to the immediate goals, the purposes of these activities would be –

- a) To foster unity of the group and unity of the church by specifically praying for and supporting the leadership of the church;
- b) To support church ministries by specifically praying for those ministries including our missionaries;
- c) To support, encourage, and counsel each other and in the larger sense, others in the church family, toward Christ-likeness;
- d) To respect the confidentiality of the group where it is expected;
- e) To maintain an attitude of grace and encouragement in our speech and actions toward the group members and to the church family;
- f) To model our love for Christ to the group members and to the whole church family;
- g) To encourage group members to utilize their Holy Spirit gifting in service;
- h) To identify and build leaders for new Growth Groups;
- i) To be willing to multiply groups by dividing

From the Elders:

We love the fact that you have chosen to lead a Growth Group. Of the many different ministries here at Cloverdale Baptist Church, we believe that Growth Groups are one of the most vital.

For that reason, if you ever need help, if you need support, are confused with what is happening in your group, please feel free to contact any one of us. We would love to help.

We are committing ourselves to pray for you as a leader, more than our support you will need the help of the Holy Spirit as you lead your group. None of us can do this on our own, we can teach the truth of Scripture, but God holds the hearts of your people in his hand. He is the one who will bring life to your group, and it is our desire that you grow in your reliance on God as you serve and lead.

We pray that God would find you a workman approved, ready for the good work! 2 Timothy 2:15-16

God bless,

Your CBC Elders

Growth Group Leaders

Qualifications

- Regularly attend CBC as a member.
- Mature believer
- Committed to integrity, character, and spiritual growth.
- Participated in a Growth Group for at least 6 months.
- Skills/Abilities
 - Leadership, shepherding, facilitating, being apt to teach.
 - Social skills – have a track record of relating and connecting with others in a positive and meaningful way.

Responsibilities

- Facilitate the bible discussions.
- Be prepared to draw biblical conclusions from the discussions.
- Attend all training meetings.
- Help coordinate meals and other responses such as financial aid or physical assistance for members in crisis.
- If hosting, provide a clean, comfortable home.
- Organize one service project a year with the group.
- To encourage people in their pursuit of God, and healthy involvement with His family at CBC. The growth groups are an essential part of the whole ministry of CBC, and as such should be a part of building unity, passion and growth with the rest of the family. Be aware of what is going on at CBC, and use your growth group to build other ministry effectiveness.

Building Your Growth Group

Building your group takes time. Please commit to being the Leader by:

Praying for them by name.

- Regularly Pray for your group.

Sending them a letter/email/card.

- Ask them how they are doing and if there is anything they need. Let them know what you plan on studying.

Calling or inviting them personally.

- Be more involved with your group than simply waiting to meet them one day a week.

Preparing For Your Meeting

Listen to the sermon - The Sunday messages from Pastor Rob is an excellent curriculum, but you can use several other studies, which are in Agreement with CBC's statement of faith. See our Growth Group Library of resources for ideas.

Prepare your home to be a warm, friendly environment – Make sure your guests are comfortable and welcomed to the group by doing the following:

- Provide enough comfortable chairs.
- Remove all pets from the meeting/eating areas (not all are pet-friendly and may even have allergies!).
- Make sure young children are cared for so they do not need attention during the group.
- Provide light snacks/refreshments, or delegate someone to organize sharing turns.

Prepare for the study – spend time going over the notes in advance of your meeting.

Leading Your Meeting

We suggest that each meeting has four basic sections to them:

1. Have people share how their week went. (~5 min.)

Each week take time to allow people to share what is happening in their lives. This is a more informal and personal time; helping everyone settle in and feel both comfortable and connected.

2. Lead the group through the study questions. (~30-40 min.)

Either through the questions provided in Pastor Rob's sermon notes, prepared material from an acceptable source such as one from our Library or through your own preparation, we want to foster the interpersonal interaction between the members of your group on the topic, discussing how we can practically follow Christ. It is not essential that you answer all the questions.

Some tips on leading a discussion:

- Set the example of listening to one another. If someone is talking, encourage all to listen. There is nothing worse than two conversations going on at once.
- Our goal is to listen and support. Be cautious about giving advice on specific personal courses of action. Suggestions may be made, but trust God to make clear to the individual what he or she should do.
- Some of us have the gift of gab. People like this often help break the ice. But don't let one person dominate the group (this includes you). Politely move the discussion along. When you pose a question call on someone else specifically first before the "talker" begins to talk.
- Be careful of gossip prayers. For example "We need to pray for (person's name) because they are doing this ..."
- No put-downs. Be respectful of people's opinions even if there is disagreement with them.
- Keep everything confidential. We want everyone to trust you and the other members of your group. "What is said here, stays here" – unless it involves a matter that the Pastor needs to know of.

3. Close in prayer. (~10-15 min.)

Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines. Group prayer goes best when...

1. Ask if anyone has a prayer request. It often helps to write these down so they are not overlooked.
2. As each request is mentioned, ask if someone would like to lift that particular request up to the Lord in prayer when it is time. Don't move on to the next request until someone volunteers to take that request.
3. Begin praying, allowing each person that took a request a short time to pray. When everyone is done praying, close in prayer.
4. Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused, and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group.

4. Socialize over refreshments (~10-15 min.)

This can be one of the most important parts of your meeting! It's during this time that friendships are established, life is shared and plans are made for further get-togethers.

In Between Your Meetings

1. Stay in touch with no-shows.

Do your best to stay in touch with no-shows, letting you know you miss them and to see if everything is okay.

2. Provide crisis care.

When one of your members has surgery or faces a crisis, someone from the Good Samaritan ministry will call you and ask if you can organize meals. Your goal at that point is to call members of your group and see if they can provide a meal for the family in crisis.

3. Service Projects.

We ask each Growth Group to participate in at least one service project they can do together as a group per year. Most choose to sponsor a family during the holidays, but your options are endless. These projects can be one of the most significant moments of your Growth Group.

4. Promoting Growth Groups at CBC.

Be willing to help promote growth groups at CBC.

5. Social events.

During breaks try to plan having a social, fun events can keep the group together and keep the relationships strong.