PARKVIEW GROUPS

FIND YOUR PEOPLE

LEADER GUIDE

Leader,

You are the heroes of our mission. You're serving on the frontlines of the work that God is doing through Parkview.

When you open your homes, share your hobbies, or have a conversation over coffee you're making Christ visible in a world that desperately needs to see Him.

I just wanted to say "Thank you", and we're in this with you! Remember: We were never meant to do it alone!

ADAM ADER,
PARKVIEW ADULTS DIRECTOR

parkview
christian church

PARKVIEW'S MISSION

REACH people with God's love.

RAISE them to follow Jesus.

RELEASE them to impact their community.

WE DO THAT IN PARKVIEW GROUPS BY CREATING ENVIRONMENTS WHERE PEOPLE CAN FIND REAL COMMUNITY AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

REAL COMMUNITY:
We connect relationally to grow spiritually.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH:
We take steps to grow in our love for God and others.

MARKS OF A GREAT LEADER

HUMBLE

We're okay not having all the answers."People will follow a leader who is always real over a leader who is always right". - ***Craig Groeschel.***

INTENTIONAL:

Great groups don't happen by accident, so we lead with a plan.

GROWING

We remember the best way to share Jesus is to become more like Him.

WE ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION BY LIVING OUT THE SAME PRINCIPLES AS THE EARLY CHURCH.

THESE ARE TAKEN FROM ACTS 2:42-47:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

THE FIRST CHRISTIANS DID THESE FIVE THINGS TOGETHER

CONNECT - Experiencing healthy relationships with other people

GROW - Understanding the Bible and living more like Jesus

SERVE - Discovering and using our God- given gifts and abilities

SHARE - Telling our faith-story to others

PRAY - Surrendering our heart and thoughts to God regularly

WE START WITH A CONNECTION

We weren't designed to be alone.

The church should be the one place where people can find real community.

- Radical Hospitality
- Environment
- Fun
- Be okay with tangents
- Connect beyond the meeting

HOW DO WE KNOW WE'RE WINNING?

- People continue to show up
- Fun is self-evident
- They are growing in vulnerability and engaging in conversation.

15 ICEBREAKER QUESTIONS

1. Do you (or would you) like to travel? What is a place you've always wanted to visit?
2. What language would you learn if you could learn one instantly? Why that one?
3. If you were an animal, which one would you be and why?
4. Do you prefer sweet or salty for a snack? What's a favorite treat for you?
5. How did you get your first job? What did you learn from it? (Or what is a job you would like to have in the future?)
6. What is your favorite holiday and why?
7. What is your favorite movie genre? What type of character would you want to play if you had to act in a movie?
8. Who would you choose to play you in a movie about your life?

9. What was a favorite way to spend your free time when you were a kid?

10. Do you prefer texting, social media messaging, emails, phone calls, or talking face to face?

11. What are some pet peeves you have?

12. What was your favorite class in school?

13. If you had to choose one meal to eat every day for the rest of your life, what would you choose and why?

14. Did you have a pet growing up? What was it like?

15. What's the first thing you remember ever learning about Jesus? Where did you first hear about Him?

FUN AND EASY GROUP GAMES

WHO AM I?

Place a name tag on everyone's back as they come in the door with a famous person's name on it (a well-known music artist, athlete, actor, book or movie character, biblical person, etc.). Have everyone ask yes/no questions of each other until they can guess whose name is on their back. Give extra clues to anyone who is stuck for too long.

THE VEGETABLE GAME.

Go around the circle and have each person say the name of a vegetable without letting their teeth show as they speak by keeping their lips curled over their teeth. No repeats. Keep going around until you can't think of any more vegetables or people expire from laughter.

I LIKE/YOU LIKE.

Take turns going clockwise around the circle each saying something you like. It could be a food, an activity, a place, a movie, a book, a game, a music artist, an actor, something people do, etc. This will often generate discussion, with others who feel the same or feel differently speaking up. Go around the circle a few times without repeating any items. You could keep it as simple as that, or you could add complexity by then going counterclockwise around the circle and trying to say something that the person on your right previously said they like!

TRUE FOR YOU

Objective: Find something you have in common with someone else so you can sit in their spot.

- Gather a loose circle of seats so there's a spot for everyone to sit except you.
- Have everyone else sit down while you stand in the middle of the circle.
- Explain that you will say something that is true for you, and then everyone else for whom the statement is also true will need to switch seats immediately
- When people get up to move, you try to sit in someone's spot.
- Whoever is left without a chair stands in the middle and makes the next true statement about themselves. It can be anything true that you can't tell by looking at them
- You'll learn what things various people in the group have in common, and you'll get people laughing and active.

GROW

GROWTH IS MOVEMENT

We're all in different places on the journey, and God has a next step in mind for each of us. Every step forward is progress, no matter how small.

> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
> ***- ROMANS 12:2***

GROWTH IS VISIBLE

When people are growing spiritually it is evident in their actions.

> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
> ***- GALATIANS 5:22-23***

GROWTH IS ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD

We engage with scripture and let it transform our lives.

> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
> ***- 2 TIMOTHY 316-:17***

HOW DO WE HELP PEOPLE GROW?

- **KNOW YOUR PEOPLE** – what is their personal next step towards Jesus?
- **CARE** – Meet them in their circumstances with sincere care for their well-being
- **CHALLENGE INDIVIDUALLY** – Speak boldly with grace and truth to inspire movement.
- **FOLLOW UP** – Process and celebrate steps as they are taken.

NEXT STEPS AT PARKVIEW

- Baptism
- Serving
- Giving

STUDY RESOURCES

- **RIGHTNOW MEDIA**
- **YOUVERSION BIBLE APP**
- **PARKVIEW'S WEEKLY SERMON STUDY GUIDE**

ALL RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT:
ParkviewChurch.com/SGResources

GROW RHYTHMS

SERVE

We learn about our God-given gifts and passions and use them for the good of others.

- DISCOVER YOUR GOD-GIVEN SHAPE FOR SERVING
- SERVE IN THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

SHARE

We boldly share the story of what God has done in our lives in order to invite others to "Come and See" that life is better with Jesus.

- Is your group open to visitors?
- Who in your lives and the lives of your group members needs to simply be invited?

PRAY

We engage in 2 way communication regularly with our Lord and King (speaking and listening).

There are many ways to pray, but you can try this structure with your group

PRAISE

Thank God for who He is, and what He's done.

REPENT

Be real with God and talk to Him about your struggles

ASK

Talk to God about how you need his help.

YIELD

Sit with God and Listen to Him

GROUPS ARE NOT A PLACE FOR:

- **BUSINESS** keep this setting about relationships
- **OFFERINGS** no burden on you as a leader, we have benevolence process
- **THERAPY** You are not expected to fix anyone's problems. Set boundaries and know when to refer.
- **CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS** stay unified, keep Jesus at the center, use the authority you have as a leader to steer the conversation in the right direction.

SAMPLE INTEREST GROUP MEETING

6:30 - Guests arrive and socialize
6:45 - Introductions/Icebreakers
7:00 - Discuss Group Expectations
7:15 – Interest activity
8:15 - Prayer requests/prayer
8:25 - Housekeeping and dismissal

SAMPLE FIRST GROUP MEETING

6:30 - Guests arrive and socialize
6:45 - Introductions/Icebreakers
7:15 - Discuss Group Expectations
7:30 - Study/Discussion
8:15 - Prayer requests/prayer
8:25 - Housekeeping and dismissal

TIPS FOR A GREAT FIRST GATHERING

- Snacks, food, or some drinks can set a casual one.
- Get to know each other first and foremost

SET EXPECTATIONS:

- Respect others
- No gossip/slander

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

You'll be assigned a coach to help you along your journey as a group leader and connect you to other group leaders who are figuring it out.

YOUR COACH ISN'T A:

- Boss
- Pest

YOUR COACH IS A:

- Support
- Encouragement
- Resource
- Problem Solver

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR COACH

- **RESPOND** - They can't help if you don't answer the phone.
- **TRUST** - They want to help, so be vulnerable and real!
- **ASK QUESTIONS** - You don't have to solve problems on your own.

WHEN TO REFER

You're not expected to solve everyone's problems or be anyone's therapist. Please reach out to your coach or Groups Pastor when a group member:

- Is struggling with mental, physical, or emotional issues that are dominating group time.
- Is talking about harming themselves or others or engaging in illegal activity.
- Has a financial or material need that is going unmet we may be able to help or connect them with resources.

If there is an immediate threat to a member's health, call 911 before your coach.

WHAT'S NEXT?

1. KEY DECISIONS - WHAT TYPE OF GROUP DO YOU WANT TO HOST?

- Small Group
- Interest Group
- Financial Peace University
- Rooted Group
- Support Group

WHEN AND WHERE WILL YOUR GROUP MEET?
WHO IS INCLUDED?
OPEN VS. CLOSED GROUP

2. PRAY

For the right people to be steered towards your group and for confidence in leading them.

3. RECRUIT

What 3 people in your circle of influence can you invite to join your group?

4. WORK WITH YOUR ASSOCIATE CAMPUS PASTOR TO CREATE YOUR GROUP

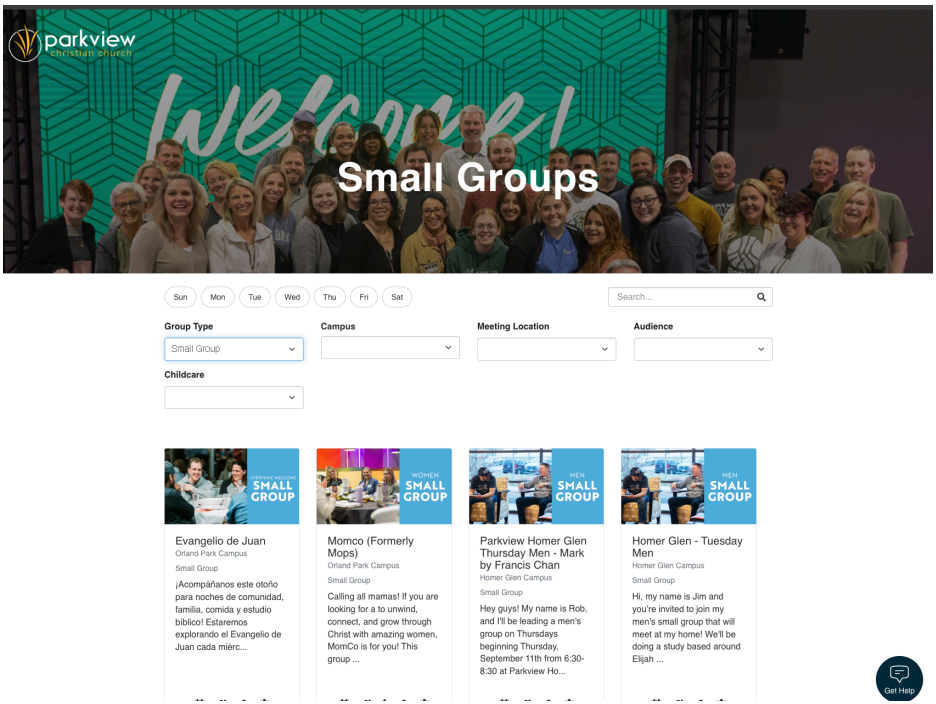
SYSTEMS

ROCK.PARKVIEWCHURCH.COM

Church database gives you access to your group's roster and contact information (See Rock Leader Instructions)

GROUPFINDER

Interactive tool that allows users to select from among all open small groups and visit the group that meets their needs.



GROUPFINDER DO'S AND DON'TS

DO:

- Write a clear, informative group description.
- You will receive an email for each person who signs up for your group. It's important that you Reach out to them within 48 hours by call or text to give welcome them and give them basic information about your group.
- Keep your listing Current and up to date.

DON'T:

- Include your personal address or contact info in the description.
- Include ordering details for any required resources.

FAQ'S

HOW BIG SHOULD MY GROUP BE?

For most small groups 8-12 regular attenders is the sweet spot between big enough for community and small enough that everyone has a voice. The exception would be certain types of interest groups.

WHERE AND WHEN SHOULD MY GROUP MEET?

Homes are usually the best as long as the atmosphere is able to be welcoming and accommodating. When that is not possible meet in a home consider an alternate place in the community (i.e. park, coffee shop, bar).

CAN MY GROUP MEET AT CHURCH?

Homes and the community are the preferred meeting spot, but there may be spaces at our campuses during Find Your People initiatives. Speak to your coach or Groups Pastor.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT KIDS?

There are several creative ways to handle childcare for your small group. Some groups share the expense of a sitter each week. Other groups will assign a designated "point person" within the group to be the go to person for kids. Consider hosting an online group to alleviate some of the burden of childcare. Affordable childcare may be offered for on campus groups during "Find Your People" initiatives.

HOW CAN I DECIDE WHAT CONTENT TO DISCUSS?

Spend some time getting to know your people and what they are interested in along with what struggles they're facing. Dig into RighnowMedia or ask your coach for recommendations that align with those interests.

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