

5 ways to foster spiritual growth

The role of a small group leader is to create a healthy group that produces healthy group members over time. But how does a small group leader do this effectively and authentically? Here are five simple ways that we've found helpful to create a healthy small group environment.

1. CONNECT YOUR GROUP WITH ONE ANOTHER.

It's important that each woman knows they belong, are valued, and that they've been invited into a family of Kingdom-minded women. Whether you've been asked to lead a women's small group through your church or in your community, be in prayer about the women you want to bring together and help them connect with one another and dive deeper with the Lord.

2. CULTIVATE A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.

The dream is that you grow the people in your group to be like Christ. Encourage your group in their journeys by getting into God's Word together and living it out. This happens when you help them form a plan for their own spiritual growth, connect them with other women chasing after a deeper relationship with the Lord and encourage them to develop healthy spiritual disciplines.

3. CHAMPION INDIVIDUAL GIFTS.

Help people discover and develop their unique God-given gifts in community. Don't just bring them in and build them up; also train them to go out and serve others in love. Each week as you're studying the Word of God, encourage the women to put it into action in their family, church and community.

4. COACH YOUR GROUP TO SHEPHERD OTHERS.

Not all of us are called to be leaders and teachers. But all of us are called to disciple - or shepherd – others. Mobilize each person to disciple someone else by praying for unbelieving, unchurched, or unconnected friends. Keep an open chair to invite those friends to group, and rotate leadership in your group to develop each persons shepherd's heart.

5. CELEBRATE GOD'S WORK IN YOUR LIFE TOGETHER.

One of the ways we love to do this is by sharing during week one where we are excited and expectant for God to move in our lives as we begin to study His Word together. Making worshiping together and praying together a priority is a great way to realign your group's heart to God and for the women to be praying specifically for one another's needs. At the end of the study, we have a time of celebration. Each woman is invited to bring a snack or small dish, dress up, and we set a beautiful table for the food. The women take turns sharing a testimony about how God has brought healing, breakthrough or confirmation through the study.

By prioritizing these five tasks of a small group leader, you will not only create a community that does life together but also create a healthy small group environment that produces healthy women, walking in healthy relationships.