

ENGAGE Small Group Leaders Guide

Hey, thanks for being a small group leader! Your role is a HUGE part of Engage and the ministry that Jesus will do in the hearts of your friends. Below are a few suggestions to help you prepare for your small group times as well as guided questions for each session. Bring this document with you to the conference!

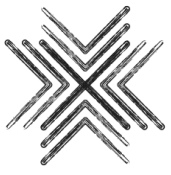
Take a moment (even 10 seconds) right now to pray for yourself and your small group. Ask God to work this weekend in your own life, and in the hearts of those you're leading. Pray that His Spirit would move and that your small group would listen and obey!

So what does a small group leader do?

Your job is to help your group connect with each other, reflect on the message, facilitate discussion, and set the tone by modeling honesty and vulnerability. The goal of small groups is to give people space to process what they have heard and discuss how it impacts their lives. As the leader, you don't have to know all the answers or re-preach the message. Just get comfortable asking follow-up questions!

And how do I make the group work?

- **Be honest.** Invite everyone to share as honestly as they want to, but don't force anyone to share. As the weekend goes on, continue to invite your group to share in deeper and more honest ways (even during informal times like lunch, free time, or in personal conversations).
- **Create a safe space.** One of the ways you can do this is by being vulnerable yourself. A wise person once said, "*vulnerability breeds vulnerability.*" So be the first person to share vulnerably in the small group discussion. This group will need to have some confidentiality! Remind everyone that what they share needs to stay in the group. This can be hard to do, but help hold each other accountable.
 - ****If someone shares something that is especially heavy that you don't know how to deal with, please find your campus director after the discussion. And to honor that student, be sure to tell them one-on-one something like: "I'm so glad you had the courage to share what you did. Thank you for trusting the group with that. I am going to invite my mentor into this conversation so that we can best care for you."**
- **Listen and respect.** Practice and encourage attentive listening! Making sure that each member of your group feels respected when they are speaking will make your group's time together more meaningful and powerful.



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Anything Else?

- **Be ready for a salvation!** Every year, students feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus and want to respond by confessing Jesus as Lord and accepting His salvation! Expect it! As you listen to your group share, please, press in when you sense that someone is wrestling with God. Ask questions like: “What do you think Jesus is asking you to do tonight?” or “What’s keeping you from making Jesus the Lord of your life right now?”
- **Pray for your small group.** Pray for your group before you arrive and throughout the weekend. Pray during your discussions and ask The Spirit to give you wisdom to lead. Below, there are a few ways that you can pray for your group.
- **Practice curiosity.** Be interested in what your group members are sharing. Ask follow-up questions. Invite others into the conversation (where appropriate). Good questions include: “What makes you say that?” “How could we turn that into a next step?” “What are you feeling as you say that?” “Where did you see that in the text?”
- **Be flexible.** If something just isn’t working, scrap it. If you see that the members of your group are connecting with a particular question, or that they are still processing, ask more questions instead of moving on. Be sensitive to what God is doing in your group and don’t be confined to your schedule or plan.
- **Do your best to look out for your group.** You get to be like a big brother/sister during the weekend! Help your group feel included by introducing them to others you know or inviting them to eat a meal with you. Be proactive to invite individuals to join you when you do something. Maybe, make a group text the first night!

Verses for Prayer:

Here are some verses that can guide you in prayer before and during the conference! Feel free to reference this page during Saturday night’s small group time too.

Isaiah 55:1-3 & 10-11—Pray that those who don’t know Jesus would “come to the water” and that God’s word would accomplish its purpose in the life of each person in your small group.

Isaiah 61:1-4—Pray that God would use all of the different speakers at the conference (and you as a small group leader) to bind up the broken hearted, free the captives and release prisoners. Pray also that this weekend would be used by God to lay foundations in the lives of “oaks of righteousness.”

Ezekiel 37:5-6—Pray that God would breathe life into dry bones and that people would come to know Him as Lord.

Matthew 13:23—Pray that the seed (the gospel) would fall on good soil, take root, and produce fruit.

Ephesians 3:16-19—Pray that your small group would experience how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is.

Philippians 2:12-13—Pray that God would use this conference to help those who already know Christ to continue to work out their salvation and see God willing and active in their lives.

James 1:22-25—Pray that the people in your small group would be convicted to be doers of the word.



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Small Group Time #1: Friday Night

1) Introduction (10 minutes)

- a. Share your name, major, where you live on campus and year in school.

2) Finish the sentence (10 minutes)

(choose 1 or 2 questions or create your own, and remember to go first)

- a. In my life right now, I'm really excited about...
- b. One thing you probably don't know about me is...
- c. I came to Engage because...
- d. This weekend I'm looking forward to...
- e. My favorite college experience thus far is...
- f. A moment in my life that I will never forget is...

3) Tonight's Message (25 minutes)

- a. How would you summarize the message from tonight for someone else?
- b. What stood out from this message?
- c. What similarities do you think there are between the passage and today's world?
- d. What questions did tonight prompt for you? Or questions you have that are unanswered?
- e. What do you think God is saying to you tonight?

4) Prayer (5 minutes)

- a. This may be you or your co-leader praying, or you could open it up to volunteers from the group. Do whatever seems most appropriate for where your group is at.



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Small Group Time #2: Host Home Dinner

Purpose: To give the host families and college students an opportunity to share their lives and their faith.

Reminder: Before you can leave, you must have your entire group with you. If you cannot find a member of your group or have any other questions/issues, call your campus staff and find/contact either Noah Crowe (660) 214-4010 or Kayla Crowe (712) 223-8142.

1. Students share with the host family:

During the meal, the **small group leader begins by thanking the host family** for the meal and fellowship. The leader introduces themselves to the host family by sharing their name, college year and major, their hometown and a little about themselves and facilitates the rest of the group doing the same. After each student has shared, the small group leader can ask people to share some of their highlights from the conference (i.e. workshops, speaker, etc.).

2. Host family sharing:

After the meal, **small group leaders** invite the host to share their faith story and how Christ makes a difference in their lives (i.e. in their family, workplace, neighborhood, etc.).

Here are a few other examples of questions that you could ask the family to generate discussion:

Tell us about how you met.

If you could go back and do one thing differently during your college years, what would it be?

Who is one person that has significantly influenced you?

What does it look like for you to walk with Jesus at work, with your family, in your neighborhood, etc?

How have you seen the faithfulness of God in your lives?

What are you most excited about in life right now?

What is a challenge you are facing right now?

Do you have a favorite verse or passage of Scripture?

How has God used it in your life?

How can we pray for you? (Pray before you leave)

*****Note:** It is very important that you, the student small group leader, take the initiative in the sharing times. It is difficult for many of the families to start sharing, so please ask them questions.*

3. Picture:

Before you leave, ask your hosts if your group can take a picture with them to remember your host dinner experience. Text the photo to Sherin Hodge at (520) 406-1993 and Sydnie Ehm at (515) 238-3522.

4. Thank You Card & Host Dinner survey

It is the small group leader's responsibility to make sure the thank you card in your packet is written, signed, addressed and returned to Noah and Kayla Crowe. Please complete your thank you and your host dinner survey **before entering the large group session Saturday night**. You can access the host dinner survey using this QR code:





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Small Group #3: Saturday Night

1) Finish the sentence

(use those best suited to your group or skip this section if you feel it is best)

- a. The best thing for me about Engage has been...
- b. One thing that I learned at a workshop earlier today was...
- c. One thing I think God wants me to do is...

2) Tonight's message

- a. How would you summarize the message from tonight for someone else?
- b. What stood out from this message?
- c. What similarities do you think there are between the passage and today's world?
- d. What questions did tonight prompt for you? Or questions you have that are unanswered?
- e. What do you think God is saying to you tonight?

3) Prayer

Take time to pray for each person—especially for the specific things that they shared. You might have an open prayer time or you could choose to pray for one person at a time (have a few people pray and then move on to the next person). Do what is most comfortable for your group. There's no rush so take your time and be open to God's Spirit and the needs of your group.