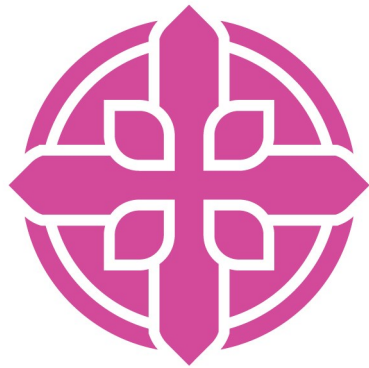


## VISION STATEMENT

OUR LIVES, COMMUNITIES  
AND WORLD MADE NEW  
BY JESUS CHRIST  
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.



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# NPC Women's Ministry Small Group Leaders Guide

## **SPREAD YOUR PASSION!**

Am I qualified? Can I even do this without Christ?

Psalm 127:1 *Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.*

1 Corinthians 3:7 *So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.*

### **Purpose:**

**How can small groups be most strategically used in Bible Study this year?**

*Have to be intentional. Make a plan or it won't happen.*

### **What it is not?**

*A chit chat, therapy session*

### **What can it be?**

*Small Group can be used in a way that forces us all to leave the circumstances of our lives behind for a bit and dig into our souls and what's really going on under the surface for a bit.*

*A safe, strategic, and focused time to examine our lives.*

*A Gospel-centered community that infects women to have joy in God's Glory.*

*Hearing the Gospel and encouraging application.*

### **What is our passion?**

*To be like Him.*

### **How?**

*Lead with authenticity and vulnerability.*

*Draw out the gospel. Look for the ways He is transforming you and share them. Ask heart-penetrating questions and be willing to answer the questions yourself. Connect with those who seem upset, and those who were vulnerable.*

### **Some people in the group are always quiet**

- Just let them be quiet. Some people are just naturally quiet. (The Bible calls that wisdom!) It is important that they feel safe in the group and not be pressured to talk.
- Some are quiet because they do not want to be embarrassed by giving a wrong answer. They may be used to school experiences when questions were often deliberately difficult. You can encourage your group by saying things like, "I'm not hunting for a deep answer here. Just tell me what comes to your mind."
- Encourage them to open up with subtle invitations: "Okay, let's hear from some others now."

### **The question goes flat; no one answers it**

- Give a hint.
- Make the question easier by narrowing down where to look for an answer.
- Rephrase the question.

## SOLVING PROBLEMS

### One or two people answer all the questions

- Be up front: “Okay, let’s hear from some others now. We haven’t heard from some of you.”
- Ask only part of the group to answer your question:
  1. “I haven’t heard much from the right side of the room. What do you folks think about this question?”
  2. “Let’s hear from some people who we’ve not heard from for this next question.” (Be prepared to wait.)
- Handle it privately: “Sue, you really do a nice job answering questions, but I’m concerned that Bob and Doris haven’t gotten much of a chance to say things. Do you mind waiting on some of your answers to give them a chance?”

### The whole group is silent

- Silence is not bad. The group may simply be thinking, so be silent and wait after you ask a question. If you answer your own question, participants will stop answering them. It is hard to be silent while you are waiting for an answer. Many people find that awkward. Try counting silently to twenty, and then if there is still not answer, try re-wording the question.
- Handle chronic silence by dividing the group into sub-groups of three. Give each group the same question to work on and let them discuss it for a few minutes. Then reconvene the entire group and have one person from each sub-group report their conclusions. This works like a charm. It always injects energy into the group and gets people interacting. Everyone in a group of three is compelled to talk.

### Possible opportunities for other women in your small group to serve along side you

*Look for opportunities to encourage others to lead . . .*

#### Hospitality Leader:

Organizes food and welcomes women as they arrive.

#### Social Leader:

Plans socials for the group—coffee shop, lunch after Bible study, etc.

#### Prayer Leader:

Collects prayer requests.

Set tone for prayer requests. Info shared stays in the group.

Encourages prayer partners.

Email prayer requests to those who were not there and other announcements.

Prayer challenge for the group. Think of a goal of how you hope to grow and also something specific that you would like to pray for this year.

Ephesians 3:10 *Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think!*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- What did this lesson teach you about God and having joy in His Glory?
- What is the one thing you learned that can fuel your passion to be like Him?
- What are one or two practical steps you can take this week to apply these truths?
- Was there anything in today's lesson that revealed a part of your heart that is not totally surrendered to Christ?
  - A place where you are failing to believe He is enough?
  - A place where bitterness and unforgiveness are festering?
  - A place where you are prizing something or someone as more valuable than Christ?
  - A place where the fear of man (your reputation) is trumped by how God views you?
  - A place where you are in bondage rather than free?
- How can you steward this lesson to encourage someone in your life this week?
- How have you seen God working in your life this week?
- What will be the application in your life?
- What fears are hindering you from trusting and therefore enjoying Christ?
- How has God been transforming you through this study?
- How does this lesson intersect my life?
- What helped you to enjoy God more today?
- How did you experience God this week as you spent time with Him?
- What difference did this lesson make in your week?
- What makes a good or bad day for you?
- What is God calling you to change in response to this lesson?
- What questions did this lesson raise in your heart?
- What is God teaching you?
- Where are you failing to live out what you say, you believe?