

## I. Introduction to City Groups

- **Purpose:** Build authentic relationships in a growing church.
- **Why It Matters:** Sunday services are valuable, but relationships need time and space to grow.
- **What to Expect:**
  - Real-life conversations and community support.
  - Bible-based discussions applied to daily life.
  - Emotional and spiritual connection.
- **Structure:**
  - Groups meet for 8 weeks in Fall and Winter/Spring.
  - Some meet year-round.
  - Offered in homes or at church.

## II. Be Present

**Key Principle:** Real ministry starts with showing up.

- **Show Up Predictably**
  - Be consistent and reliable.
  - Build trust through presence.
  - Learn names, remember details.
- **Show Up Mentally**
  - Be emotionally and mentally engaged.
  - Prepare ahead, eliminate distractions.
  - Use nonverbal cues to show care and focus.
- **Show Up Randomly**
  - Go beyond meeting nights.
  - Texts, visits, or small gestures show deep care.
  - Communicates "You matter beyond group time."

## III. Create a Safe Place

**Key Principle:** Growth happens when people feel safe.

- **Acceptance**
  - Welcome differences: backgrounds, beliefs, personalities.
  - Celebrate people equally; avoid gossip and judgment.
- **Protect Confidentiality**
  - Encourage "what's shared in group, stays in group."
  - Use the "Hurt Filter" to discern when confidentiality must be broken (harm to self/others).
- **Practice Honesty**
  - Normalize questions, doubt, and vulnerability.
  - Lead with your own authenticity.

## IV. Make It Personal

**Key Principle:** Your example speaks louder than your leadership.

- Lead Yourself Well
  - Stay spiritually healthy and grounded.
  - Give, attend, and serve faithfully.
- Live in Community
  - Have personal community outside of the group.
  - Avoid making the group your personal outlet.
- Set Priorities
  - Model spiritual and relational priorities.
  - Let your group see your values lived out.
- Be Real
  - You don't have to be perfect—just genuine.
  - Share your growth and struggles appropriately.

## V. Connection Over Content

**Key Principle:** Relationship is the goal, not the curriculum.

- Connection Creates Impact
  - People remember care more than content.
  - Be flexible and responsive to group needs.
- Follow the “Wave”
  - Pay attention to life context and group detours.
  - Let conversations breathe when moments are meaningful.
- Use Content as a Tool, Not a Target
  - Encourage group ownership of discussion.
  - Invite questions—even when you don't have all the answers.

## VI. Facilitate, Don't Dominate

**Key Principle:** Guide the conversation, don't control it.

- You're a Guide, Not the Guru
  - Help others engage with truth and one another.
  - Draw out voices, don't preach.
- Embrace Silence
  - Give time for people to process.
  - Don't rush to fill the space.
- Invite Others In
  - Gently encourage quieter members to share.
  - Use discernment—don't pressure.
- Don't Be the Hero
  - Share stories sparingly and strategically.
  - Use your experience to relate, not overshadow.