

VISION

It is important to begin each small group with the vision in mind. Our vision at Next Level Church is to lead people to become fully engaged followers of Jesus.

BEFORE THE GROUP: HOW TO PREPARE

Read the designated chapter of the Bible to be discussed by your group and complete your own personal SOAP Journal entry. As a reminder, the acronym SOAP stands for:

S - Scripture

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day and write it in your journal.

O - Observation

What do you think God is saying to you in this Scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

A - Application

Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this Scripture can apply to you today.

P - Prayer

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this Scripture or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

PROPOSED FLOW OF GROUP: HOW TO LEAD

Logging On (5 minutes)

As people arrive, make them feel welcome and comfortable.

NOTE: If this is your first time meeting virtual, consider using the resource *Successfully Launching a Virtual Small Group* to lead your first group.

Icebreaker (15 minutes)

Before participants can really dive into meaningful discussion, we must break the ice and get people to participate with each other. Use the *Icebreakers for Virtual Groups* resource for inspiration.

Pastoring and Leading the Group (30 minutes)

As a reminder, we define pastoring as knowing, loving, and challenging those we lead. We lead our group toward becoming more fully engaged followers of Jesus.

Read the Chapter Aloud

To start, read the designated chapter aloud to the group and ask them to follow along in their physical Bible (if possible). This will promote participation from everyone in the group – even if they were unable to SOAP themselves beforehand.

The goal is to allow the Scriptures to become top of mind and for all other distractions of the world to begin to fade away.

Discuss the Chapter

To begin the conversation, briefly share your personal SOAP and how it applies to your life personally. The goal is not to preach or teach, but to go first in vulnerability, so that others feel safe to share their own insights and applications.

Open up the floor for anyone else to share what stuck out to them and how they can apply that to their lives today.

If you feel conversation waning, consider asking these questions:

- Was there any verse or overarching idea in the chapter that stuck out to you? (Encourage them that what ‘sticks out’ is how the Holy Spirit speaks to them uniquely because God’s Word is alive and active and relevant to their personal lives. We can each hear God’s voice).
- What did you observe in this chapter that comforted or encouraged you? Confused you or made you wrestle with your faith? Challenged or convicted you?
- Consider picking out a specific verse in the chapter and ask everyone what that verse means to them personally.
- Upon reading this chapter, what is your prayer? What are you in need of right now?

Next Steps (5 minutes)

Before your group concludes, next steps should be given to the participants, including, but not limited to:

- When your group will be meeting next
- Action steps you desire your group to take before you meet next, such as taking time to SOAP every day.
- Points of prayer to intercede for one another

Close and Prayer (5 minutes)

Formally dismiss the group by receiving prayer requests and ending in prayer.