

Small Group Purpose Ideas

WORSHIP

ASPECT OF WORSHIP	CRAWL	WALK	RUN
Prayer	Make it a point to pray for the group when you meet. You may want to open in prayer or close in prayer but be sure you take the lead in making prayers a part of your group.	Have members of your group share specific things they need prayer for and then pray for them. You may have one person pray for all the requests or have each member pray for one person. Be sure to keep a record of these prayers and be sure to ask about their requests on a weekly basis.	Take some time to lead your group through a time of structured prayer and meditation.
Sing Praise	Attend a worship service together as a group and praise God together.	Invite someone to your group to lead worship during your group time.	Make singing and a time of praise a normal part of your small group meeting. You could sing a capella, use the musical talents of members in your group who may play an instrument, or stream worship music to help you to worship together.
Communion and/or Foot-washing	Attend a worship service together as a group where communion is served. Spend some time in your next group meeting reflecting on how that time impacted each member.	Invite your Community Leader to your group to lead you in communion or a foot-washing.	Lead your group or have someone in your group lead you in a time of communion or foot-washing together. If you need more information on how to do this see the resource section. Make this a regular occurrence in your group.
Surrender	Do a study together that focuses on ways to worship. In what ways could you make this a practice in your group?	As a group, spend some time discussing things that each of you needs to surrender to God. Make it an open and confidential time of sharing your lives together. Commit to pray for those things that were shared. Spend some time taking communion together remembering Christ's sacrifice of surrendering His life for you.	Agree as a group to fast together. It could be for one day or a specific time of day and it could be from food or some other thing (those with physical issues could fast from things other than food). Spend the time together reflecting on your own dependence on God. Spend some time thanking God for all he has done for you and what he will do in the future.

FELLOWSHIP

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Build Community	Celebrate significant occasions as a group (birthdays, spiritual birthdays, etc.) Look for opportunities to play together.	Have an affirmation night where each person is on the “hot seat” while group members share what they appreciate about that person.	Go on a retreat together as a small group. This could be an affinity retreat (couples, singles, etc.) or a spiritual retreat. Carve out some time to be together.
Deepen Relationships	Make prayer a central part of how you deepen your relationship with one another. Have a regular time for sharing concerns and requests and write them down in a journal that you refer back to frequently to see how God has answered your prayers.	Take a night in between studies and go to dinner together and/or go see a movie as a group. Look for opportunities to spend fun time together.	Plan a weekend trip or go to a camp together. Look for fun opportunities to share life together.
Meet Needs	Take some time to pray for the needs of those in the group. You may want to write these things down and check in with each other.	As people share their needs, look for ways that you as a group could rally around that person. There are some needs that we cannot meet, but for those that can be met, make it appoint to do everything you can to help each other.	Take the Spiritual Health Assessment as a group and discover each member’s strengths. Go through the Small Group Health Plan and have members meet some needs in your group based on the strengths they discovered from the Spiritual Health Assessment.
Share Community	Place an empty chair in your group to remind you that your group is open to sharing your small group community with others. Who should you be praying for to fill that chair?	Look to get to know other small groups in your community. You may want to have a get together with another small group to get to know each other and share together.	Invite someone new into your group. You may know someone you can invite, or you may talk with your Community Leader about who is looking for a group in your area.

DISCIPLESHIP

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Curriculum	For your next series, spend time talking as a group about what the next topic of study should be. Have people share what their needs are and what they feel would be a beneficial topic to study at this time. Then choose one as a group.	For your next series, choose a topic that you have never considered as a group to stretch you and make your group more balanced. If you always study books of the Bible, try studying a topic like life stage related or a spiritual habits study. If you always do topical studies, try studying a book of the Bible. Have fun expanding your horizons.	Plan your curriculum or topic of study a year in advance. Try to move to a place where your curriculum is balanced. Make it a goal to do a study on at least one book of the Bible (discipleship), one life stage related study (fellowship) one spiritual health/disciplines study (worship), and one outreach /Ministry-related study (evangelism/ministry). Make your curriculum reflect the balance you want for your group.
Accountability	Have each member of your group take the Spiritual Health Assessment. Have each person share with one other person the area they have chosen to work on so they can pray for one another.	Take the Spiritual Health Assessment as a group. Have each person share their strength and the area they need to work on. You may want to have people pair up based on strengths and weaknesses to mentor one another by same sex (ex. I am weak in evangelism, so I pair up with someone who has evangelism as a strength). Make taking the assessment a regular occurrence (annual, bi-annual, etc.).	Have your group take the Spiritual Health Assessment and then walk through the Group Health Assessment together. Look for ways to have people in your group take ownership of the group based on the strengths and passions they have for a particular purpose. Set goals as a group for how you will balance the purposes over the next 6 months.
Spiritual Disciplines	Have each member of your group connect with another person in the group for prayer support. Have people share things they would like prayer for and make it a point to have those pairs ask each other about those requests regularly.	Have your group take some time to share with one another the struggles they have in their lives and one way the group can help them to grow. You may want to divide your group into men and women and have the men go in one room and the women in the other to allow for open discussion. Pray for each other's needs and follow through on the ways people said you could help them to grow.	Take the results from each person's Spiritual Health Assessment and match people up in the group (same sex) based on strengths and weaknesses as spiritual partners (ex. If I am weak in discipleship and that is a strength for someone else then we should pair up). This will allow members of your group to build into each other's lives in a natural way and not be seen as task masters trying to hold me to a plan. Share the results from time to time with the group.

MINISTRY

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Understand Your SHAPE	Take CLASS 301 together and/or take the 6-week video curriculum “Discover Your SHAPE”.	Schedule some time to have a SHAPE Guide come to your group and share with the group some of the ministry opportunities available based on the SHAPE of the members of your group.	As a group, spend some time sharing each person’s SHAPE. What are some ways that each person can contribute to owning the group based in a particular purpose? Affirm and look for ways for group members to contribute to the health of your group based on their passions for a particular purpose area.
Serve Your Group	Pick a way you can serve the members of your small group. You may want to wash a car for someone in your group, take care of the yard or prepare a meal for them. Look for practical ways to serve each other.	Have each person in the group take on a role to help make the group better. You will want to structure this around the purposes to help your group to be balanced. For instance, someone may want to handle the food (fellowship), another handle prayer (worship), or someone else trade off teaching (discipleship). Look for ways to include everyone so that each person can serve the group.	As a group, look for ways to serve other small groups. You may want to find out what the needs of another group are and try to meet those needs. Or you may want to offer to watch the children for a group so they can have a night out to build their fellowship together. Look for ways to connect with and serve other groups in your area.
Serve Your Church as a Group	Take a night to serve the church by doing a ministry in a box project. Call the church office and request a box to do as a group, swing by the church office and pick up a box, and then have fun finishing the project together.	Take on a ministry event together as a group. You may want to volunteer to serve at one of the Easter or Christmas services as a group.	Find a ministry that your group can support or serve in as a group on a regular basis. Get a copy of the Church-Wide Ministry Guide and look through the opportunities. Choose a way you can serve together as a group.
Serve Your Church with Your SHAPE	Take some time as a group to reflect on the SHAPE of each of the members of your group. Have each person take turns being on the “hot seat” and have the rest of your group share the gifts and passions they see in that person. Do this for each member of your group. How could these gifts be expressed in ministry?	Have each person in your group take some time to try serving in one or two ministries in the church to get a feel for where they might best serve.	Encourage your group members to commit to serving in some kind of ministry at the church. Reflect regularly as a group about what God is doing in and through each person as they serve and celebrate God’s goodness together.

EVANGELISM

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Personal Evangelism	As a group, take a class at church on evangelism. Spend some time together discussing what you learned and how you could implement it in your group.	Identify three people that you will pray for as a group and make it a point to talk regularly about how you could invite them to your group.	Pick one person you will each share your faith within the next week. Come back and report how it went. You may even want to invite the person to your group.
Group Evangelism	Set up an empty chair in your group as a constant reminder of the fact that your group is open to others who may not know Jesus. Spend some time thinking about who each person could invite to fill that chair.	Plan on going through a small group study on evangelism as a group.	Invite your friends who don't know Christ to a small group party to share a little about the community you have as a group. You may find that some of your friends may want to attend your group.
Local P.E.A.C.E.	Spend some time as a group mapping your neighborhood. Who doesn't know Christ? Identify those in your spheres of influence who you could share with and invite to your group.	As a group, serve together in your local community. You may want to volunteer at a food bank or serve food at the holidays at a local mission. Go out for dessert afterwards and take some time to share about your experience.	Choose to sponsor a need or cause in your local community. It may be a school, a mission, etc. Look for opportunities through the Mission Team at church.
Global P.E.A.C.E.	Choose an unreached people group that your small group will commit to pray for. Get more information about available groups from the Mission Team at church.	Take CLASS 401 together as a group.	As a group, volunteer for a P.E.A.C.E. trip focused on the unreached people group you have been praying for.