

# YTH SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## **YOU ARE A LEADER.**

We have an incredible opportunity to pour into the next generation. **Be aware of the influence you have** in the youth auditorium and outside of it, in person and on social media.

## **GREAT SMALL GROUP LEADERS ARE GUIDES, NOT GURUS.**

Many people think leaders are gurus—perfect, wise people who know the Bible inside out, & can answer any questions. But gurus don't make for great small group leaders. Gurus tend to make small groups all about themselves, their knowledge, & their insights—making it hard to focus on Jesus.

**The most effective leaders are guides.** They have a map of where they are going and they know where they are headed. Their leadership is not all about getting others to focus on them, it's about making progress toward their destination by guiding the conversation.

**Your small group time is not about you; it's about Jesus.** Your responsibility is to keep people focused on Him, becoming more like Him, and making Him known.

### **WHAT IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO A STUDENTS QUESTION?**

**That is OKAY!** A guru would be threatened & try to make something up. But a guide would remember that they have the “maps” of God's Word, the support of church staff, & resources. If you don't know the answer to the question, BE HONEST: “I don't know, but I will try to find an answer and let you know next week!”

## **GREAT SMALL GROUP LEADERS ARE PREPARED.**

“Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.” —John Wooden.

Being prepared doesn't mean you have the group time mapped out minute by minute, or even if you have the group questions in advance. **The preparation for small groups in Bayside YTH is spiritual.** Pray for your groups prior to arrival or throughout the week. **You are leading, and the best way to lead is to be fully submitted to Jesus.**

## **GREAT LEADERS SEE THEIR GROUPS AS COMMUNITIES, NOT CLASSROOMS.**

Although students are learning something, we try to make it as different from school as possible. **You don't need to be a seminary professor, you are simply facilitating conversation.** Starting conversations can be a little awkward, but embrace the awkward. If your group starts running down a rabbit trail, gently point them back to the topic at hand. Try to get everyone involved in the conversation,

understanding how they can apply what they have learned. Listen intentionally to students as they speak & encourage the whole group to do so as well.

You know your group best! **The questions are a great guide, but your goal is to create community within the group.** Although the questions are important to cover the topic, don't allow the questions to get in the way of connection between the students. This is an opportunity for students to **FIND FAMILY.**

### **REMEMBER.**

Great group leaders are normal people, JUST LIKE YOU. No matter your background or leadership experience, **if you guide people to Jesus you'll be doing exactly what you're supposed to do.**

THANK YOU FOR POURING INTO THE NEXT GENERATION!