

# Enlisting and Developing Connect Group Leaders

## Adult Connect Group Organization Guide

### *A Connect Group ...*

- **Is Foundational**— the fundamental beginning place for involving adults in doing the work of the Great Commission. It is an entry point for unbelievers and new believers and is foundational for believers to mature as they study God’s Word and learn to serve.
- **Is Ongoing**—Meets regularly for Bible study and builds ongoing relationships with class members and prospects. There is a plan for ongoing ministry, outreach, and fellowship.
- **Is Evangelistic**—has as its primary objective to win the lost. There is a climate that encourages believers to invite, engage, and share Christ with the lost.
- **Focuses on Bible Study**—the study of God’s Word. This is accomplished through ongoing small-group study as well as personal Bible study with the purpose of guiding adults toward conversion, maturity, and ministry.
- **Multiplies**—Open Groups challenge group members to discover their place of service as group leaders. As members mature, they are constantly encouraged to serve elsewhere as youth, children, preschool, or adult leaders. The overarching goal is to start another group. Open groups prepare to start a new group every two years.
- **Is Intentional**—planning and evaluation takes place to ensure that the group functions as an open group.



## Organizing Groups for Growth

### BASIC ORGANIZATION

#### **Connect Group Leader**

Responsible for leading the group to develop an environment in which people have the opportunity to accept Christ and mature as Christians. This is accomplished as the teacher...

- (1) Prepares his or her life as the primary leader of the group
- (2) Enlists a ministry coordinator that will help organize the group to function as an open group
- (3) Enlists an associate to mentor and become a co-leader
- (4) Leads the group to encounter God’s Word during the Bible study session
- (5) Leads the group to continue personal Bible study following the group meetings
- (6) Leads the group to multiply by working with church leaders to start new units and by sending members out to serve

## **Associate/Co-Teacher (Apprentice)**

Works with the teacher and ministry coordinator to develop personal leadership and teaching skills for the purpose of preparing to become the teacher of a Connect Group. The associate...

- (1) Teaches a minimum of once every six weeks and more often as the group prepares to start a new group
- (2) Works with the teacher and the ministry coordinator to lead the group to function as an open group
- (3) Assists the teacher in encouraging the spiritual and service growth of group members
- (4) Plans, encourages, and participates with members in discipleship studies beyond the primary meeting time.

## **Ministry Coordinator**

Leads the group to function as an open group by working with the teacher and other church leaders to...

- (1) Register guests and keep accurate attendance records
- (2) Develop and implement plans leading the group in evangelism including training and follow-up of guests and prospects
- (3) Develop and implement plans to care for group members
- (4) Develop and implement plans involving the group in fellowships outside of primary meeting times to build ongoing relationships
- (5) When appropriate, enlist leaders included in the *Expanded* and the *Expanded* organization who will multiply the work of the group.



# **EXPANDED ORGANIZATION**

## **Outreach Leader**

Works with the ministry coordinator, teacher, and associate/co-teacher to develop and implement a class evangelism strategy. The strategy should include:

- (1) Ways in which to discover prospects
- (2) Processes to assure guests are properly welcomed and registered
- (3) Plans for consistent follow-up of guests
- (4) Training group members in sharing their faith
- (5) Personal enlistment of group members to help implement these processes and strategies.

## **Care Group Leader(s)**

The goal is to provide one care group leader for every four to 6 members and members-in-service. The care group leader(s) work with the ministry coordinator, teacher, and associate/co-teacher to assure that every group member is contacted regularly including...

- (1) Absentee contacts
- (2) Crisis contacts
- (3) Encouragement and evangelistic contacts

# EXPANDED *Plus+* ORGANIZATION

## **Fellowship Coordinator**

Works with the ministry coordinator and other group leaders to develop ways to encourage the development of closer friendships and personal relationships. This includes planning ongoing activities and events that bring people together for fun and fellowship. Responsible for providing opportunities for the group to build a sense of community.

## **Prayer Coordinator**

Guides the group toward spiritual transformation through encouraging personal daily devotional and Bible study activities. Leads the group to become involved in the prayer ministry of the church and coordinates the prayer ministry of the group.

## **Missions Coordinator**

Leads the group to support missions giving and participate in mission education and ministry projects. Works with the ministry coordinator and other group church leaders to plan and coordinate class involvement in church- and group-sponsored mission and ministry projects.



## Steps For Developing New Connect Group Leaders

### **Step One: Before You Enlist Leaders**

Pray, seeking God's vision for the group. The vision of the group will determine the leaders needed. A healthy group will pursue a vision that enables it to function as an open group. Begin by developing basic leaders for the group and then develop leaders in the expanded organization. Challenge the members and attendees to discover why God has strategically placed them in the group. Provide a response card for members to indicate the areas of service they believe God desires them to pursue.

### **Step Two: Enlist Leaders**

Prayerfully select and enlist leaders based on the group members' response cards. Personally enlist every leader and explain each job. Spend time enlisting leaders, allowing potential leaders time to pray about the positions being considered.

### **Step Three: Train Leaders**

Provide immediate training for all group leaders. Review all aspects of the group's work and help leaders set goals. Meet regularly with leaders to communicate evangelism opportunities, update prospect and membership rolls, evaluate the work of the group, and train leaders. Encourage members to participate in church, associational, state, and national training events.

### **Step Four: Eat with the Troops**

Spend time with leaders developing personal relationships. Get to know them, praying, eating, guiding, correcting, laughing, celebrating, and empowering them.

### **Step Five: Let Them Soar as Eagles**

Ultimately, the goal of developing group leaders is to send them out to serve elsewhere. Once leaders leave to serve elsewhere, make sure the group maintains an ongoing relationship with them. The adult Connect Group organization will always be changing as it expands and as leaders move into other areas of ministry. If all group leaders remain in the same position for more than two years, the group may become **stagnant**, turning inward. Maintenance is not the goal—**multiplication** is!