

Getting the Most Out of This Course

Welcome to the course, “How to Launch a Thriving Small Group: Equipping New Leaders to Lead Next-Level Groups!” We have designed this course to be multi-faceted and very practical. You may take this course on your own or you may benefit from taking this course with other new small group leaders and engaging in discussion after each session or module.

Here’s how we have designed this course with you in mind:

READ

For each session, you will be asked to read a chapter (or part of one!) from *Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level*. This will help you learn at your own pace what next-level leaders can and should do to contribute to their members’ spiritual growth. You’ll learn a new vocabulary, be introduced to new concepts, be reminded of what has been helpful in your own group experiences and be encouraged.

WATCH

Then, you’ll watch a teaching session where you’ll learn how this content should be applied to a new group leader and/or a new group--that’s you! We’ll share key principles and key action steps specifically for those of you just starting out on this small group leadership journey. We suspect that some of you are a bit more seasoned in your leadership and we hope that this also helps you be reminded of what is good and true and continues your leadership development journey.

REFLECT

After each session, you’ll engage a few reflection questions we have provided. These are designed to help you think critically about your previous group experiences, sometimes encouraging you and sometimes challenging you. Press in. Because of the gospel, we are free to look closely at our experiences without shame or pride, recognizing that God is redeeming you and others through this season of stepping into small group leadership!



APPLY

And after thinking and reflecting, get going! Here, we'll provide resources and tips and tricks for you to grow in your leadership. Maybe it's an interview with a ministry pastor or leader or it's a sample email to a new group member who has just signed up. Yes, we're interested in setting a strong foundation for your leadership, but then we also want to help you actually do it!

You might find it helpful to gather with other new small group leaders or a small group coach to share your reflections, experiences, and plans. You may also find a small group in which all of you are taking this course together to share ideas and debrief your initial attempts and applications in your small groups, continuing to grow and learn, individually and together!

