

VOX CHURCH

COMMUNITY

GROUP



WHERE THE REST OF CHURCH HAPPENS

LEADER GUIDE

At Vox Church, we believe that every individual was designed to live in biblical community with one another. Before the world began, community existed in the relationship between God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:26, 2 Cor. 13:14). If it's important to God, it's important to us!

Thank you for your interest in leading a Community Group. We truly believe groups are where the rest of church happens. Our heart is to see God's people coming together regularly, growing in a stronger, deeper relationship with Jesus through his Word, building lasting friendships, and impacting the community together.

As you go through this Community Group Leader Guide, my prayer is that you will catch the vision for groups and grow in excitement to lead them

Justin Kendrick, Lead Pastor
Vox Church

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SECTION ONE:

**COMMUNITY
GROUPS
RATIONALE**

WHY COMMUNITY GROUPS?

1. WE WERE CREATED TO NEED ONE ANOTHER.

“There are many parts but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you.’ The head can’t say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you’...there should be no division in the body, but its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” (I Corinthians 12:12; 21,25–26)

- We need **each other** to function fully as the body of Christ.
- We suffer **together**; we rejoice **together**.
- We can’t reach our individual potential without the **together** of the body of Christ.

2. WE WERE CREATED TO BE WITH ONE ANOTHER SO THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW JESUS.

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as You and I are one—as You are in me, Father, and I am in You. And may they be in us so that the world will believe You sent me.” (John 17:20–21)

- How does a unified body of Christ make the good news of Jesus Christ known? When followers of **Jesus** take coming **together** seriously!

3. COMMUNITY GROUP IS WHERE THE REST OF CHURCH HAPPENS!

- People are hungry for love, friendship, purpose, and life transformation, and we believe groups are the best structure to make that happen. We believe that Sunday morning gatherings of worship and Bible teaching, partnered with Community Groups and CORE Groups, help shape the believer to become more and more like Jesus Christ.



VOX CHURCH CORE VALUES

JESUS AT THE CENTER

We believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the most important truth in life. Jesus lived a perfect life, died a substitutionary death, and rose from the dead. This one truth changes every other part of life (1 Cor. 15:3–4). Vox Church is committed to applying this life-changing truth to every corner of our hearts and lives. We want the good news of grace to reshape how we see God, how we see ourselves, and how we see the world. This truth is our first and central value.

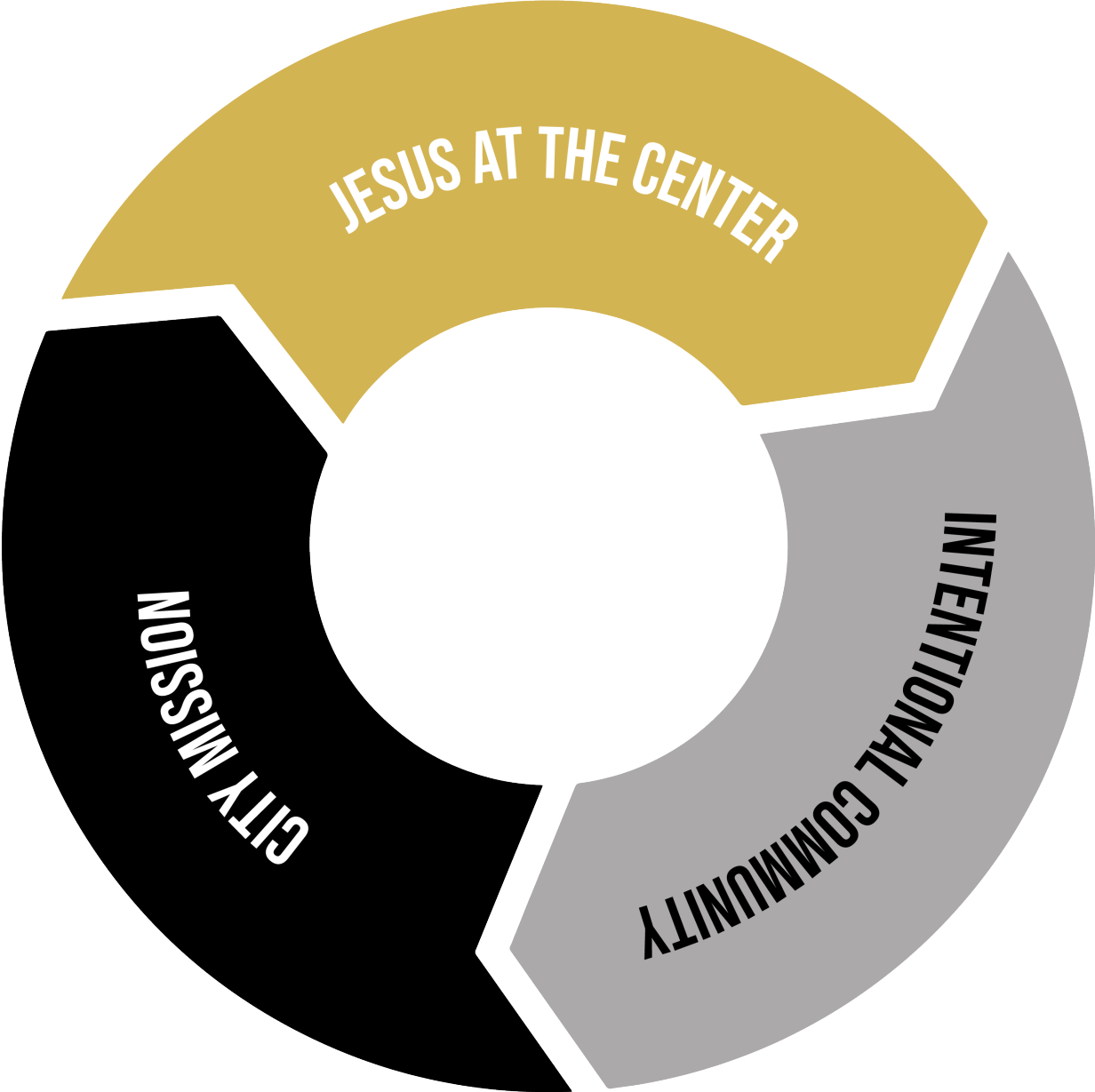
INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

Community is how God does things. Scripture teaches that God is one in essence and three in person (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). God has designed humanity in such a way that we need each other to know and experience God fully. It's true that each of us should have a personal relationship with God, but it's equally true that there are aspects of God we can never know until we invest in deep relationship with his people. This type of sacred community does not happen by accident. We must be intentional about growing it and sustaining it.

CITY MISSION

A holy urgency marks the heart of Vox Church. We believe that time is short, people need God, and he has called his church to be a voice. The name “Vox” comes from the Latin word for voice, and we believe that God desperately wants to speak to those far from him and bring them close. His primary method of doing this is his

church. As the people of God, we want to echo his truth in every corner of our world through sharing the gospel, serving the poor, helping those in need, seeking the good of the city, partnering with other churches and organizations, and participating in global missions (Matt. 28:19–20).



COMMUNITY GROUPS VISION

1. PRACTICING LIFE IN CHRIST (JESUS AT THE CENTER)

Learning to apply the gospel to every area of our lives **DAILY**. Making every effort to place Jesus at the head of everything we do, allowing the truth of who **HE** is and what **HE** has done to change who **WE** are becoming.

What does that look like in a CG?

- Discussing the **SERMON** or **OTHER TEACHING** together and applying it to our lives
- Learning spiritual disciplines together (Reading/memorizing scripture, fasting, silence and reflection/journaling, etc.)
- Worshiping together
- Praying together
- Sharing faith and learning how to inspire one another to do the same

2. TOGETHER (INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY)

Positioning yourself to be **KNOWN** by others and to display mutual **CARE** for one another (Acts 4:32–34).

Proximity—Positioning the ebb and flow of your life and family rhythms so that intentional time with “others” is prioritized. (**NO ISLANDS!**)

What does that look like in a CG?

- Sharing meals
- Game nights
- **REJOICING** with one another in times of celebrating
- and **RALLYING** around someone in your group in need
- Being committed to praying for one another

3. ON MISSION (CITY MISSION)

Apply the love of God through others-focused living. Move beyond the walls of our church and meet tangible needs in your community as a group. Develop hearts of compassion, generosity, and service as you live out your faith and follow the heart of Jesus together.

What does that look like in a CG?

- Learn about your campus' local outreach focus areas and consistently pray over them as a group.
- Serve with one of our local outreach partner organizations.
- Use a Serve Together DIY to bless one of our partner organizations.
- Register for Serve Our City Day together.
- Connect with your local outreach director and see if there are needs you can meet as a group.

**PRACTICING LIFE
IN CHRIST**

**TOGETHER
ON MISSION**

COMMUNITY GROUPS STRUCTURE

CENTRAL COMMUNITY GROUPS PASTOR

CAMPUS COMMUNITY GROUP DIRECTOR

COMMUNITY GROUP COACH

COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER

COMMUNITY GROUP MEMBER

SECTION TWO:

COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS

CG LEADER QUALITIES

Because of the vital role the CG Leader has in accomplishing the vision of discipleship in our church, there are a few crucial qualities they need to be **P.R.I.M.E.D** with for leadership.

PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Committed **FIRST** to actively pursuing Jesus (I Corinthians 11:1).

- A life that is truly growing in Christ
- Practices personal spiritual disciplines
- Reaches out to others with the love of Christ

READY TO SERVE

Community Group leadership is a commitment of time, energy, and resources. In Luke 14:27-30, Jesus reminds his followers, “If you’re going to follow Me, sit down and count the cost.” Make sure you are ready to serve – the LORD! “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” (Colossians 3:23).

As you count the cost, remember, we don’t serve in our own strength. True servanthood is Spirit-led and Spirit-empowered! “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the LORD of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6).

INTERESTED IN GROWING

Ephesians 4:11–6 reminds us that spiritual growth doesn’t happen in isolation. In community is where truth discovered is applied to daily life. As a Community Group Leader, your desire for everyone in the group to be growing is important! They need you, and you need them. “...when each part is working properly, this makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love” (Ephesians 4:16b).

MEMBER OF VOX

Vox Church requires that every Community Group Leader is a member. That means you have taken the Essentials class and have signed the membership covenant. We desire that every leader agrees with our spiritual beliefs and core values and understands and accepts our distinctives and ministry practices.

EMBODY GROUP LIFE

You don't need to be a group dynamics guru, but you must believe in the power of healthy community in Christ and are committed to the time necessary to help people experience it.

DESIRE TO PASS IT ON

Desire to see a positive, healthy CG experience with a group replicated! Willingness to see others experience the joy of being a part of a group that:

CARES for one another well

LAUGHS with one another... **A LOT!**

CHALLENGES one another to know God's Word more

(I Thessalonians 2:11–12)

WHAT DO I DO AS A LEADER?

1. Set Group Type & Rhythms
2. Invite Others To Your Group
3. Choose What To Study
4. Report Attendance On A Roster
5. Communicate Well & Often
6. Navigate Group Dynamics
7. Lean Into The Support System
8. Look For Leaders In Your Group
9. Core Groups
10. Continue Training & Equipping
11. Dividing Up Leadership Roles

1. SET GROUP TYPE & RHYTHMS

What kind of group do you want?

- Ongoing Group (no end; occasional breaks)
- Module Group (meets for a predetermined block of time then breaks)
- Open Group (anyone can join any time)
- Closed Group (set number/people group)
- Frequency (number of days the group meets in a month)

2. INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN THE GROUP

Invite people to join! Most groups range from 5–20 people.

TYPES OF POTENTIAL GROUPS:

- MEN'S
- WOMEN'S
- CHILDREN WELCOME
- CO-ED
- SINGLE'S

- VOX YOUTH
- YOUNG ADULT
- MARRIAGE
- PARENTING
- FINANCIAL
- ONLINE

3. CHOOSE WHAT TO STUDY

Help your group ask the right **QUESTIONS** to determine where to go next.

- What has God been saying to dive into further?
- Are there any needs in our group we want to discuss further through a biblical, Christian lens?
- Are there any apparent gaps in our collective understanding of an aspect of Christian life that we want to try to close together?
- Are there things about God (his character, gospel, mission) and his Word that he has been prodding you to know and pursue more together?

4. REPORT ATTENDANCE/ROSTER

Data matters. We need your help to ensure we are making accurate decisions. You can keep track of your attendance and your roster through a phone, tablet, or computer through the voxchurch.org website.

- Leaders take attendance on the Vox website under ‘My Account.’
- As the CG Leader, you will receive attendance email reminders before your group begins.
- Keep your group roster up to date! (+ / x)
- Pending Members: Individuals registered online or through sign-ups. Please make the person ACTIVE in your group if they came to a gathering or DELETE them if they never came to a gathering/ didn't respond.
- Active Members: You can email your roster from your Group Toolbox in your ‘My Account.’ Notify CG directors if the group ends or takes a break.

5. COMMUNICATE WELL & OFTEN

Leader-to-member communication is vital. Without it, confusion wins. Be sure to communicate:

- Date, Location, or time changes
- What to bring (if anything)
- Inform the group of new people joining

Take full advantage of the many avenues of communication available today: text messages, emails, phone calls, Facebook messages, in person, and through your ‘My Account’ page on the Vox website.

6. NAVIGATE GROUP DYNAMICS

Wherever people gather, there will be issues. As you facilitate

14 discussion into deeper waters, remember:

- Always keep Jesus at the center
- Refer to the Vox Core beliefs as a reference point on pages 39-41
- There is freedom to explore, pray, and dig as you keep your eyes on truth
- Don't be afraid to ask someone else—you don't need to have all the answers
- Bring in others to the discussion (other leaders, CG Director, Coaches, Campus Pastor)

7. LEAN INTO THE SUPPORT SYSTEM

Each campus has a support team available for all Community Group Leaders. The team consists of a Campus Community Group Director and Coaches. We encourage you to lean into your support system whenever you need prayer, encouragement, assistance, ideas, or wisdom in handling situations.

8. LOOK FOR LEADERS IN YOUR GROUP

Every group has at least one or two people who could lead a group someday. They may just need a little encouragement and help. Refer to page 34 on how to develop future CG Leaders.

9. CORE GROUPS

A CORE Group is 3–4 people of the same gender from a Community Group who commit to meet outside of Community Group time. Together, they actively pursue **GROWING DEEPER** as **DISCIPLES** of Jesus Christ by developing **7 CORE HABITS**:

1. **RELATIONSHIP**: Daily time alone with God.
2. **RADIANCE**: Share your faith every week.
3. **RECEPTIVITY**: Obeying the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
4. **RIGHTEOUSNESS**: Live within the accountability of biblical sexual boundaries.

5. RESOURCES: Trust in God as you practice generosity.
6. REST: Submit to God and practice weekly Sabbath rest.
7. REPLICATION: Invest in someone else.

***TO START A CORE GROUP & ACCESS THE CORE MATERIAL,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: VOXCHURCH.ORG/CORE***



10. CONTINUE TRAINING & EQUIPPING

Continue to learn and grow as a CG Leader. You may wonder, what is offered?

- CG Leader Experience (for potential CG Leaders)
- CG Leader Equipping (for CG Leaders to continue developing as leaders)
- Vox Community Group Leadership Podcast (for more in-depth training in specific areas)
- RightNow Media training videos for CG Leaders

11. DIVIDE UP LEADERSHIP ROLES

A great way for group members to stay committed and take ownership of the group is for the CG Leader to empower them with leadership roles. See page 32 for suggested leadership roles.

ELEMENTS OF A HEALTHY CG

CONSISTENCY

There is consistency in meeting together. The people in your group can't wait to get together again! Also, reading the Bible and praying are consistently a part of your gatherings.

AUTHENTICITY

From the leader to the attendee, everyone feels free to share about their lives without judgment.

GROWTH

Bible knowledge is turning into life application. Real and evident life change is happening in the lives of the people in your group. CORE Groups are forming and meeting to go deeper.



FRIENDSHIP

Fellowship is happening in and outside of the CG gathering time. People are getting to know each other and enjoy being around each other.

NEEDS MEET

When a crisis happens, group members are there to support, pray for, encourage, bring meals, or help meet the need of the member.

SERVING TOGETHER

Everyone is serving together in some capacity, whether as a group in the community, on a Sunday, or on a mission trip.

INVITING

There is an excitement about welcoming new people to the group; when new people join, they feel welcomed and included.

From time to time, your CG Coach may ask you to take the Group Leader Assessment, located in your Group Toolbox on the Vox website. This will help you both see areas of strength and growth needed in your CG.



WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GROUP HOST?

Anyone can **HOST** a Vox Church Community Group. A **HOST** is an individual who has agreed to a short-term commitment to host a group.

**H
O
S
T**

AS A HEART FOR PEOPLE

OPEN YOUR PLACE (MEET IN A HOME, COFFEE HOUSE, RESTAURANT, WORKPLACE)

SERVE A SNACK

TURN ON THE VIDEO (OR FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS FROM THE SERMON QUESTIONS)

HOW DO I BECOME A HOST?

If you have a heart to gather people and grow in your faith, follow these simple steps below to get started:

1. **APPLY.** Fill out the Host Form on the Vox website under “Start a Group” on the Groups page. The Community Group Director from your campus will reach out to you to help set up your group.
2. **PICK A DAY.** When your Campus Community Group Director calls, let them know the day, time, and location you want to have your group. They will connect you to a Community Group Coach who will join you as you start your group.
3. **HOST.** Invite your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, or people you meet at church to attend your group! Talk to your coach about what to study first.

IS A HOST A CG LEADER?

Not yet. A **HOST's** group is invite-only and is not on the Vox website. Once a **HOST** becomes a CG Leader, the group can be advertised on the Vox website, which helps recruit new people to join the group.

HOW DOES A HOST BECOME A CG LEADER?

A **HOST** can become a leader after completing an Essentials Class to become a member of Vox. Additionally, a CG Leader should complete the CG Leader Experience Training. These are offered at each campus throughout the year. Ask your Campus CG Director for details.

ONLINE COMMUNITY GROUPS

Online Community Groups are a great alternative to traditional in-person groups, whether due to circumstances, geography, stage of life, or preference. The same qualifications, expectations, training, and equipping apply to online group leaders and hosts. We encourage online groups to create in-person interactions such as hangouts or meetups to supplement their group meeting schedule.

If you are interested in leading an online group...

- Fill out the “Start a Group” form on the groups’ page on the Vox website and select “online” as your campus. Our Online Campus Pastor will get back to you with the next steps or contact your Campus CG Director for next steps.
- Start at #1 of the CG Leader Expectations on page 12 and start making decisions to accomplish the expectations.
- Familiarize yourself with the Vox website, sermon questions, sermon series, CG Leader resources, and RightNow Media.
- Participate in trainings when offered.
- Participate in Community Group events and Group Links (Group Links are described in the FAQs on page 24).



FAQ'S

1. WHERE SHOULD MY COMMUNITY GROUP MEET?

Each group can decide if they want to meet in one home, move around to others' homes, in a coffee shop, workplace, park, online, or somewhere else.

2. WHEN SHOULD MY COMMUNITY GROUP MEET?

CGs can meet anytime during the week or weekend. Talk with the people in your group about what day and time work best.

3. HOW LONG DOES EACH CG GATHERING LAST?

Most groups meet from 60–90 minutes.

4. HOW OFTEN DO CGS MEET?

Most groups meet once a week. Some groups meet bi-weekly.

5. WHAT SHOULD WE STUDY FIRST?

If your group is starting around the Fall Campaign (September), we would expect your group to go through Campaign materials first. Otherwise, a great place to start is the current or past sermon series. Discussion questions can be found on the Vox website.

6. HOW DO I FILL MY COMMUNITY GROUP?

Personal invites to friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, or other church members are a great way to fill your group. Community Groups will also be posted on our website for people to join. Once they sign up for your group, you will get their contact info to reach out to them about your group. Occasionally, campuses will host Group Links.

7. WHAT IS A GROUP LINK?

A group link is a time before or after a church service or activity where CG Leaders are available with sign-up sheets for their group. People can meet the CG Leader, see the group type, when and where they meet, and sign up to join their group.

8. WHAT IF I CAN'T ANSWER A QUESTION?

Don't panic. It's O.K. to say you don't know. There is no pressure to be the smartest one in the room. Explain that you will seek the answer from God's Word this week. It's even O.K. to tell them you will reach out to another CG Leader, your Coach, or even your Campus CG Director or Campus Pastor for help.

9. WHAT DO I DO WHEN CONFLICT HAPPENS?

Follow Matthew 18:15–17 with grace, love, and ultimately forgiveness. If the conflict isn't resolved, lean into your support system (CG Director, Coach) if you aren't sure what to do or say next.

10. HOW BIG IS TOO BIG OF A GROUP?

Groups vary in size, but if people find it hard to share and participate, it might be time to get creative. Here are some ideas:

- **Sub-group** > Stay together during fellowship and worship but split up into smaller groups during Bible study/discussion.
- **Divide** > Communicate openly with the group about the size of your group, and, if necessary, divide it into two different permanent groups. Identify the new leader right away.

11. HOW LONG SHOULD A CG STAY TOGETHER?

As long as you want! CGs should commit to meet and remain in community with each other for at least one series (6–8 weeks). If you want to join or start a new group, it's ok. Talk about it with grace and love.

SECTION THREE:

COMMUNITY
GROUP
RESOURCES

WHAT HAPPENS AT A CG?

Typically, a regular Community Group gathering time should include an aspect of Fellowship, Worship, Bible study, and Prayer.



FELLOWSHIP (10-15 MINUTES)

Fellowship comes in many shapes and forms. Often it will look like laughter, telling stories, eating together, playing an ice breaker game, sharing life hack ideas, celebrating a birthday, and more.

Other times, it will look like sharing a testimony, talking about something amazing God did, or having a few members share their favorite Bible verses and why.

Look for a creative person to lead a different kind of fellowship aspect each week or rotate that responsibility between group members.

WORSHIP (10-15 MINUTES)

Cultivating times of worship together is an important aspect of each gathering, during which the group focuses on God's presence and the ability to express love for Him. It could be singing along with a guitar or piano, but it doesn't have to be just singing (see ideas on next page).

How do you incorporate it?

The best time is right at the beginning. Open in short prayer and then begin. This sets the evening and focuses on Jesus.

Ideas:

- Print lyrics and have someone gifted musically lead. (Piano, guitar, etc.)
- Play songs digitally (YouTube, Spotify) with lyrics on screen, if possible. Choose two songs before people come and have them cued up and ready to go.
- Selected worshipful Bible readings (Example: Psalm 23, 63, 64) while playing soft music in the background.
- Go around and say three things you are thankful for and why.
- Share the names of God found in Scripture and have group members share the one that is most significant to them.
- Google “Worship ideas for a small group” and pick your favorite ideas!

BIBLE STUDY/DISCUSSION (30-45 MINUTES)

With becoming a mature disciple of Jesus as the goal for every believer (Eph. 4:13), diving into LEARNING and LIVING out God’s Word in practical ways is of greatest importance in each gathering.

Vox Church provides a plethora of resources to assist CG Leaders in facilitating Bible study and discussion.

SERMON QUESTIONS

These are questions provided for groups based on the previous week’s sermon. They follow the current teaching series. They are accessible on the Vox website weekly. Review questions before the meeting. Familiarize yourself with the question’s meaning so you can go deeper if the opportunity arises. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

PAST SERMON SERIES

If you loved a sermon series from a year ago or years ago and want to use it for your group, you can! Past sermon series and questions are available on the Vox website.

RIGHT NOW MEDIA

As a CG leader of our church, you are given free access to thousands of video Bible studies and other valuable resources!

Sign up for free on the vox website.

BIBLE STUDY

Perhaps you feel unqualified to lead a study right out of the Bible. You're not! Go to the Leader Resources page on the Vox website and follow the easy-to-use "Bible Study Methods."

Get Involved > Groups > Leader Resources > Bible Study Methods

You can also use the easy-to-use Three-Question Bible Study Method on the next page.

PRAYER (10-15 MINUTES)

Take time teaching a culture of prayer. In other words, leave room for it and talk about its importance. Make sure this is a safe space so people can be vulnerable in sharing. Also, mix it up. Here are some ideas:

- If someone shares something that should be prayed for immediately, stop everything and pray for that person. Lay hands on them if they feel comfortable.
- Turn on some quiet music during prayer time. (For example, soft piano or acoustic guitar music without words.)
- Split into small sub-groups, or split genders, and pray together.

- Select one or two words, based on the study, to focus on through prayer time. (For example, if “love” is the selected word, pray and thank God for his undeserved love for you and your group to extend God’s love to others in their own lives.)
- Pray through a psalm together.
- Have everyone write down a prayer request or praise and put it in a hat, then everyone draws a paper and prays for the request or praise.



THREE-QUESTION BIBLE STUDY METHOD

1

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

List the facts. Be literal. List the who, what, when, and where. Who is speaking? Who is the audience? When did it happen? Where is it taking place? Are there repeated words?

2

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD MEAN?

Learn the lessons. Be spiritual. Look for a spiritual lesson or principle within the facts. What do the people in the passage do that we should or should not be doing? Is there a command we should obey? A warning we should heed? An example we should follow?

3

HOW CAN WE APPLY THIS TO OUR LIVES?

Listen to his voice. Get personal. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you; don't rush. Take your time to prayerfully meditate on what He is saying to you through his Word. Talk with your group and write down ways God's Word can be applied directly to your relationships, career, family, friends, circumstances, struggles, etc.

First Corinthians 12 reminds us that we are all part of the body of Christ and need each other to function well. Ephesians 4:16 reminds us that the whole body grows when we are all working properly. Dividing up leadership is a great way to maximize spiritual growth within the group. It also helps raise up additional leaders, creates a sense of ownership and commitment in the group, and free's the CG Leader up to focus more on the Bible study and group discussion time.

However, there is no obligation. If you, as the CG Leader, believe giving out a leadership role would benefit the group, the person, and you, then feel free to ask the person if they would consider taking on the responsibility. Below are some suggested leadership roles.

CG ADMINISTRATOR

- If there is a person in your group who loves administration, consider asking them to be the Group Admin. They can be designated as the Group Admin in your Group Toolbox in your Vox "My Account."
- If they are designated as the Group admin in your Group toolbox, they will receive the attendance emails for your CG. As the CG Leader, you will also receive the attendance email, but the admin can go in and take attendance each week for your group. This will alleviate the need for the CG Leader to remember to take attendance each week.
- They will also be able to email the group on your behalf, make pending members active, update group members' information, send "thanks for coming" emails to visiting group members, send prayer requests to the group, or any other administrative task you would like them to do.

WORSHIP COORDINATOR

- If a person in your group loves worship or is gifted musically, consider asking them to be the worship coordinator. Communicate weekly and set aside time to incorporate worship into your CG gathering. Suggested time: 10–15 minutes. See “Worship” in the CG Gatherings section on pages 27-28 for ideas.

PRAYER COORDINATOR

- If a person in your group is passionate about prayer consider asking them to be the Prayer Coordinator. Communicate with them weekly and set aside time to incorporate prayer into your CG gathering. Suggested time: 10–5 minutes. See “Prayer” in the CG Gatherings section on page 29 for ideas.
- Have them communicate prayer requests and praises with the Group Admin each week so they can be sent to the group via email/text.

CITY MISSION COORDINATOR

- If a person in your group is passionate about outreach, consider asking them to be the City Mission Coordinator. This person will coordinate serving opportunities. Outreach opportunities are available regularly on the Vox website under **GET INVOLVED > LOCAL OUTREACH**. A suggested number of times serving together is quarterly.

DEVELOPING FUTURE CG LEADERS

One of the best ways Community Group Leaders can “make disciples,” fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20, is by developing future CG Leaders. That sounds like a tall task, but it’s not! Every group has at least one or two people who could lead a group someday. You can help prepare them by following these easy, simple, practical steps:

PRAY. In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus encouraged His disciples to pray earnestly for more laborers for the harvest. With the vision of Vox Church to “Go from the least churched region in the United States to the most spiritually vibrant place on earth,” we need more CG Leaders praying earnestly for more CG Leaders.

ENCOURAGE & INVITE. Talk with potential Leaders and encourage them about the potential you see in them. Personally invite them to join you at one of the CG Leader trainings, equipping, or a CG event.

GIVE RESPONSIBILITIES. Ask them to take on a Leadership role. Give them opportunities to substitute as the CG Leader for a gathering. Ask them to lead a discussion in your group. Don’t be critical when they do; instead, encourage, motivate, and affirm.

UTILIZE YOUR CG COACH. Ask your CG Coach for advice, ideas, and what to do next.

Every parent should be concerned for the safety and well-being of their children. These aren't mandates, just ideas. Be open, honest, and sensitive with your group about childcare.

SWITCH

Separate the adults into two groups when you get to the study or discussion part of your gathering. One group does Bible study, discussion, and prayer, while the other half watches the kids, drinks coffee, and eats dessert in a separate area. After the allotted time, the two adult groups “switch.”

ROTATE

In each meeting, two adults watch the kids in another area of the house. This is best done in pairs to provide company for the adults and added protection for the kids. Never rotate out a married couple, but instead send two men or two women so that relationships are built, and one of the spouses can talk through the study with their spouse later.

HIRE A BABYSITTER

Pool money and hire a quality childcare worker to look after the kids in a separate area.

OTHER IDEAS

Go to the Community Group Leader Resources page for helpful instructions on how to be a “Children Welcome” group.

HELP! IT'S MY FIRST CG GATHERING

BEFORE GATHERING

- Invite others to join your group using phone calls, texts, emails, or invitation cards. Be creative. Be specific about the group (what to expect).
- Send a reminder of the meeting date, time, and location the week before and the day before.
- Test your tv/video to make sure it's working properly.
- Purchase or prepare food and drinks in advance.

DURING GATHERING

- Make sure there are enough seats for everyone.
- Turn on some music. Create a fun and welcoming atmosphere.
- Arrival, Mingling, Snacks (15 minutes)
- Welcome, Group Introductions (5 minutes)
- Ice Breaker Question (15 minutes)
- Share Group Guidelines (10 minutes)

» Suggested Guidelines (feel free to create your own):

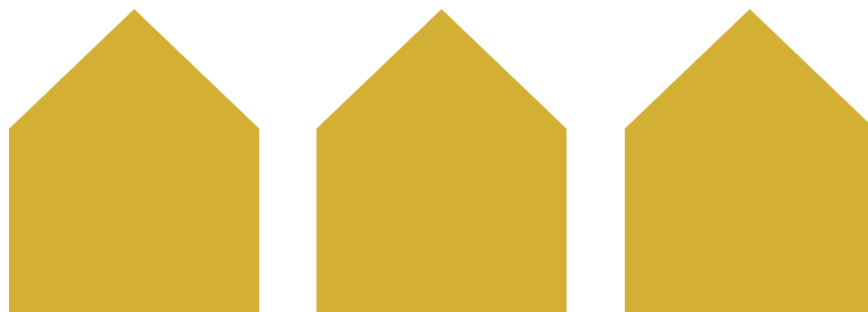
1. Clear Purpose > To grow in relationship with God and each other
2. Prioritize Group Attendance > Life gets busy. Prioritizing this gathering is vital to our own personal spiritual health and the growth and health of the group.
3. Safety & Confidentiality > People in this group should feel comfortable and safe to share without judgment. Anything asked to stay confidential should!
4. Resolve Conflict Biblically > Conflict is bound to happen, and that's OK! When it does, we won't panic, gossip, or let it go and grow. We will resolve it biblically, immediately (Matt. 18:15–17).

5. Share Roles in Our Group > Everyone plays an important role. We will share the responsibilities.
6. Optional: Welcoming Newcomers > If your group has space for new people to join, members are encouraged to invite others! Communicate well about space and when the cutoff might need to happen
7. Optional: Childcare > If kids are a part of the group, it's important to get on the same page about that right away.

- Video and Discussion (30 minutes)
- Prayer Requests & Prayer (5 minutes)

AFTER GATHERING

- Send an email or text to thank everyone and remind them of the next meeting time.
- Follow up on any prayer requests.



25 TIPS FOR LEADING A CG

1. BEFORE PEOPLE SHOW UP, TURN ON EVERY LIGHT ON THE FLOOR WHERE YOUR GROUP MEETS, ESPECIALLY LEADING TO THE BATHROOM.
2. USE NAME TAGS, ESPECIALLY FOR YOUR FIRST MEETING.
3. GREET PEOPLE AT THE DOOR WITH A SMILE.
4. BE FRIENDLY AND BE YOURSELF.
5. SNACKS! ALWAYS! BE CREATIVE. HAVE FUN WITH IT.
6. END YOUR GROUP ON TIME OR EARLY.
7. DON'T TRY TO BE PERFECT. DON'T BE TOO FORMAL.
8. DO THINGS TOGETHER OUTSIDE OF GATHERING TIMES. BE CREATIVE.
9. START SERVING TOGETHER IN A SMALL WAY RIGHT AWAY.
10. GIVE OUT ROLES, NOT ROLLS; THIS CREATES OWNERSHIP AND INCREASES ATTENDANCE.
11. IF PEOPLE WORK LATE, LET THEM KNOW THEY CAN BRING THEIR DINNER.
12. GROUP DISCUSSION ISN'T TEACHING TIME ONLY.
13. IT HELPS FOR PEOPLE TO READ THE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, NOT JUST HEAR THEM.
14. WHEN A QUESTION IS ASKED, EXPECT SILENCE. DON'T ANSWER YOUR OWN QUESTION FIRST. LET SILENCE CONTINUE.
15. ALWAYS OPEN GOD'S WORD! ALWAYS PRAY TOGETHER!
16. DON'T ALWAYS GIVE THE FINAL ANSWER.
17. LOVE TO LAUGH!
18. LOVE TO SING! LET SOMEONE WHO DOES LEAD WORSHIP.
19. IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE WITH POTENTIAL, LET THEM TRY LEADING.
20. PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP MEMBERS REGULARLY.
21. OVER COMMUNICATE.
22. CHANGE UP THE GATHERING LOCATION OCCASIONALLY.
23. MEET THREE TIMES AND THEN SERVE TOGETHER THE FOURTH TIME.
24. CONNECT WITH YOUR GROUP MEMBERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. SHARE PICTURES AND SEND MESSAGES.
25. TREAT EVERYONE AS IF THEY WERE JESUS!

THE SCRIPTURES

The Bible is God's Word to all people. Human authors wrote it under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because God inspired it, the Bible is truth without any mixture of error and is completely relevant to our daily lives.

THE GODHEAD

God has existed in relationship with himself for all eternity. He is a triune God, one God revealing himself in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Although each member of the Trinity serves different functions, they possess equal power and authority.

GOD THE FATHER

God is great: He is all powerful, all knowing, ever present, unchanging, completely worthy of our trust, and holy. It is in him that we live, move, and exist. God is good: he is our Father. He is loving, compassionate, and faithful to his people and promises.

GOD THE SON

Jesus Christ is completely human, but at the same time, completely God. He is the only plan for bringing people who are enemies of God back into a right relationship with God. He lived a perfect life so that he could be a substitution for us in satisfying God's demands for perfection. He defeated death in his resurrection so that we could have life.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is fully God, the third person of the Trinity, and assures us of our relationship with Christ. He guides believers into all truth and exalts Christ. He convicts people of their sin, God's righteousness, and the coming judgment. He comforts us, gives us spiritual gifts, and makes us more like Christ.

HEAVEN AND HELL

Heaven and Hell are places of eternal existence. Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with him is eternal life.

HUMAN BEINGS

Man is made in the image of God and is the supreme object of his creation. Man was created to have fellowship with God but became separated in that relationship through sinful disobedience. As a result, man cannot attain a right relationship with God through his own effort. Every human personality is uniquely created, possesses

SALVATION

The blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the only way to salvation through the forgiveness of sin. Salvation occurs when people place their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as sufficient payment for their sin. Salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned through our efforts. The victorious work of Jesus on the cross provides freedom from sin, lies, sickness, torment, and all the power of the devil.

THE CHURCH

The global church is a living organism made up of all born-again followers of Christ from every age, race, and nation. The local church is a regional community of baptized believers unified through faith in Christ. It is committed to the teachings of Christ, to obeying all his commands, and seeks to bring the gospel to the world. The church works together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ.

VOX CHURCH DISTINCTIVES

The Vox Distinctives are the behavioral values of our church. They put language around how we act in light of our vision and core values.

1. WE ARE MARRIED TO THE MESSAGE

This distinctive means that Jesus is more important than my preferences. We want to be people who are the first to serve and the first to sacrifice because Christ has already extravagantly served us. Leaders at Vox are not those with nice resumes or elite social status but those willing to get their hands dirty, roll up their sleeves, and give their lives. No job is beneath us. No truth should be taught and not practiced by our leaders. We are married to this message.

2. WE ARE CONTENDERS

We live in the tension of the now and not yet. When it comes to miracles, we expect them to happen and pray for them to come. If things don't go the way we expect, we trust the good plan of God above what we can see. Our attitude towards prayer is not passive. We believe God has given us the weapon of prayer to see his goodness manifest in our time.

3. WE ARE PIONEERS

Vox Church is a risk-taking church. We always seek to move with wisdom and good counsel, but we also seek to live on the cutting edge of what God is doing. We are not a play-it-safe community.

42 Time is short, and people need Jesus.

4. WE ARE STUDENTS OF CULTURE

To make a difference, we must know the language that culture speaks. Vox Church seeks to be relevant in our presentation of God's timeless truth, presenting this truth in a way that grabs the attention of a spiritually hungry world.

5. OUR RELATIONSHIPS BUILD MUSCLE

Rather than squirming away from confrontation and difficult conversations, we humbly lean into them, knowing that honesty, humility, and courage create relationships that last a lifetime. We deal with conflict quickly, and we don't gossip. We never give up on one another.

6. WE THRIVE IN CULTURAL CENTERS

We go where people gather. As the world moves into the city, we strategically focus on where the impact can be greatest. We are committed to being a church representing our cities' diversity.

7. WE ENJOY THE RIDE

We take God and his mission very seriously, but we try not to take ourselves too seriously. As God works miracles in our church, we pause to celebrate along the way and seek to create healthy life rhythms to sustain wholehearted devotion to Christ.

Go home and pray about leading or hosting a Community Group.

If you feel led by the Holy Spirit to lead a Community Group, contact your Campus CG Director for the next steps, or fill out the “Start a Group” form on the Groups page on the Vox website. **Get Involved > Groups > Start a Group**

Familiarize yourself with the Vox website; sermon questions, sermon series, CG Leader resources, and RightNow Media.

Start at #1 of the CG Leader Expectations on page 12 and start making decisions to accomplish the expectations.

Participate in trainings and equipping when offered at your campus.

Participate in Community Group events and Group Links when offered.

THANK YOU



VOXCHURCH.ORG/COMMUNITY-GROUPS