



Small Group Leaders,

Thank you so much for walking your students through this curriculum during the spring semester. Now that this series is coming to an end, your small group will be using the standard series curriculum to accompany the message. However, we want to provide your seniors with more room to grow. This summer we want to invite seniors to step up and lead small group conversations each week. This will not be required for everyone, only those who are interested. Also, if you see potential in a student, make sure to call it out.

You will still be present and ultimately leading your small group each and every week. However, you will be giving more leadership to your students. For those who are interested, we have created a student version of this document with a few thoughts on effectively leading a small group. You can find this list at the bottom of this document. This list certainly isn't exhaustive, but it will put them well on their way as they lead this summer.

Here is what you will need to do to set your students up for success who want to lead.

1. Create a schedule for those who want to lead.
2. Send the scheduled student the small group guide once you receive it from your coach.
3. Pray for them.
4. Be there along the way to guide, encourage, and redirect if necessary.

We believe this will set our students up for success when they transition out of fpst students into young adult small groups. Thank you for making this a reality! You make us so much better.

FPS Team

3 Tips to Kick-Start your Small Group Leadership

1. PREPARE – When is the last time you took a test and thought, “man, I will never wait to study at the last minute again.” Believe it or not, this same feeling can happen when leading a small group. Set your group up for success by setting yourself up for success.
 - a. How can you do this?

- i. Read the lesson.
 - ii. Anticipate answers.
 - iii. Pray for your group.
- 2. SPEAK LESS, LISTEN MORE – When is the last time you loved when someone stole a conversation to the point of no return? A common misconception of leading a small group is that it is your responsibility to dominate the conversation. However, it a small group leaders’ job to spark conversations and give students a safe space to have conversations.
 - a. How can you do this?
 - i. Learn to embrace silence.
 - ii. Ask follow-up questions.
 - iii. Actively listen to what others say.
- 3. DON’T FORGET TO BE A HUMAN – Your job as a small group leader is not to have all the answers. Your job is not to be a biblical scholar. Your job is not to be more impressive than anyone in the room. Your job is to encourage conversations about life and faith and ideally how the two can connect. The quickest way to build equity is for those you lead to know you are a human just like them.
 - a. How can you do this?
 - i. Say “I don’t know” when you really don’t know.
 - ii. Encourage honesty over perfection.
 - iii. Admit your inadequacies.