

THE JOURNEY'S GROUP LEADER EXPECTATIONS

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Thank you for your interest in leading a group at our church! 1 Peter 2:5 states, “you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” This is what we call the “priesthood of all believers”. This principle means that every believer has direct access to God through the Word and prayer and shares communal worship of God with and ministry to fellow believers. Therefore, at The Journey, we believe in developing and deploying men and women to become faithful and effective leaders by helping them evaluate and engage their gifts and talents. The Journey works to assist leaders to grow in grace, knowledge, faith, and obedience to Christ.

Below is an outline of the process to be appointed as a leader in our church:

1. **Agreement:** Please review the EXPECTATIONS.
2. **Application:** Fill out the application ONLINE or PRINT it out.
3. **Review:** Applications will be reviewed by the relevant ministry leader.
4. **Interview:** Based on available opportunities and alignment with your gifts, you will be scheduled for an interview with the relevant ministry leader.
5. **Appointment:** If you are selected to serve in this role in our congregation, the relevant leader will follow up with you.

EXPECTATIONS

To be a Group Leaders Team Member, you must meet the stated expectations.

- 1) The Journey is a church family in covenantal relationship. To be a Group Leaders Team Member, you must first be a Covenant Member of The Journey. The Journey seeks to actively live out Ephesians 4:11-12, which says, “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ”. In Scripture, the equipping of the saints always takes place in committed fellowship and trust between a local church and its members.

Members of The Journey commit themselves to the vision of seeing *our city awakened to and transformed by the love of Jesus*. We pursue this vision through our mission, which states that *we are a diverse community centered on Jesus Christ, seeking to wholly enjoy His grace, faithfully embody His love for one another, and boldly engage our culture with His truth, from our neighborhoods to the nations*. Group Leaders Team Members are invited to multiply themselves and lead others in this exciting mission toward our God-given vision!

Group Leaders Team Members are expected to actively concur with the biblical doctrines of The Journey. With regard to the theological distinctives of The Journey, it is desired that Group Leaders Team Members actively concur with The Journey's positions. If a Group Leaders Team Member is unable to actively concur, the leader may passively submit to these positions. However, leadership of particular kinds of groups, such as content groups, may be required to actively concur on some or all of the theological distinctives of The Journey.

With the guiding enablement of the Holy Spirit, Group Leaders Team Members ought to willingly and joyfully covenant that...

- Because the Bible is God's word, and the basis for all of our essential beliefs, I submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:19-21).
- Because I have been saved from my rebellion through the gospel of Jesus Christ, I will build my life upon the foundation of Scriptures, pursuing the Lord Jesus Christ through regular personal Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and practice of the other spiritual disciplines (Ps. 19:7-14; Ps. 119:97, 105; Lk. 18:1; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Eph. 5:1-21; 1 Thess. 5:12-22; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 10:23-25).
- Because I have been adopted into the family of Christ, I will regularly participate in corporate worship and seek spiritual friendship with other believers in biblical community at The Journey (Prov. 17:17; Heb. 10:23-25).
- Because I have been blessed by God to be a blessing to others, I will steward my time, talents, spiritual gifts, and finances in a manner that is generous, sacrificial, and cheerful (Prov. 3:9-10; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 8 & 9; Gal. 5:23-26; Eph. 4:1-16; Eph. 5:15-18; 1 Pet. 4:10-11).
- Because I have been united with Christ and His Church, I will participate in the sacraments of baptism and communion as set forth by Jesus for the Church .
- Because we are the righteousness of God through Christ, who is holy, I will pursue holiness in all areas of life, by God's grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit, as an act of worship to Christ (Ephesians 5; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; Heb 12:14; 1 Pet. 1:13-16, 4:1-3). I will take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Cor. 8:1-13) or be deemed foolish by the Scriptures (Rom. 14:14-23).
- Because I know I am forgiven, when I sin, I will confess my sin to God and to fellow believers, and I will repent and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom 8:13; Col. 3:5; James 5:16; 1 Jn 1:6-10).
- Because God has given us His church, I will diligently strive for unity and peace (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:5) in the church by submitting to The Journey's statement of faith and its leaders.
- Because God has given His church undershepherds, I will submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another—the hope of such discipline being

repentance and restoration, and receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; Heb. 12:5-11).

A Group Leaders Team Member is held to a higher standard, because they provide an example for the entire church family. They demonstrate through their lives what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Group Leaders Team Members submit themselves to the discipleship and discipline of The Journey's leadership for the purity and peace of the church.

- 2) Because we are children of the living God, followers of Christ, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, our experience of God shapes the way we conduct our lives. As representatives of Christ, all our conduct directly impacts the way those around us perceive and experience Christ and His Church. As a member of The Journey Group Leaders Team, you must be committed to and are responsible to "walk in the light, as he is in the light" so that we may have fellowship with one another. You are responsible for developing and exhibiting mature Christian behavior, both in public and in private.

Exemplifying the highest moral commitment, Group Leaders Team Members are to maintain a disciplined life of Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, generosity, and services out of love for God and others. Group Leaders Team Members are to refrain from those behaviors that do not bring glory to God, such as:

- excessive profanity
- violence or uncontrolled temper
- lewd or coarse conduct or conversation
- gossip or slander
- drunkenness
- dishonesty
- illegal drug use
- pornography
- and any kind of sexual immorality.
- (See Galatians 5:13-26)

Rather we are to conduct ourselves in the bearing of the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; for against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

The goal is not perfection, but progression. We all falter, fail, and fall at different times. Yet, because of the gospel, we joyfully repent knowing that we are forgiven by God in Christ. That is why we joyfully engage Scripture, as 2 Timothy 3:16-17 reminds us, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for

every good work.” It is by God’s Word that the Holy Spirit reminds us of who we are in Christ.

And our enjoyment of God’s grace enables our lives to be an example in speech, action and attitude so that others are encouraged to grow in Christ and to become servants/leaders themselves. As we mature in Christ, we find that these disciplines do not restrict our lives -- rather, they liberate us to lead transformed lives of strength, power and purpose.

As a Group Leaders Team Member, you are pledging to uphold the Group Leaders Expectations, and are pledging that if and when you struggle to uphold it, you will seek spiritual assistance, accountability and restoration from church leadership and other faithful Christian brothers or sisters.

SUMMARY

Jesus summarizes all of the law and all of the prophets in the word *agape*, which means unconditional love. Jesus says that the greatest two commandments are to love God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love others. As Group Leaders, we must always ask ourselves: 1) Do my thoughts, words and actions demonstrate my love for God? 2) Do my thoughts, words and actions demonstrate my love for others? If we’re following these two commands, we know we are leading well!

GROUP TYPE OPTIONS

In an effort to launch various groups for the goal of creating a gospel community to enjoy grace, embody love, and engage culture, The Journey has created five (5) group types. A group ought to fit into one of these broader group types. The group types are listed below in alphabetical order with a brief description.

- **Care Groups** are for those that have a shared need for support. These groups are led by a church leader who can provide spiritual guidance and counsel while those in the group support one another. Examples of such groups are GriefShare, DivorceCare, Sexual Integrity, etc.
- **City Groups** are for those who share a passion to serve our city and want to engage/serve with others who share the same passion. These groups can serve together and can also learn/ grow in their understanding of our city together. Examples of such groups are local school partnerships, reading programs, meal service, refugee care, etc.
- **Community Groups** are for those who want to build genuine community with others at The Journey who live in close proximity to their home. Ideally, these groups meet weekly and become familial in nature, providing care, accountability and spiritual friendship for one another.

- **Connect Groups** are for those looking for others who share a common interest, age- or life-stage. In a large church, it can sometimes be difficult to identify those who share commonalities. These groups are a great way to get started in building relationships. Examples of such groups are Mom's Groups, Empty Nesters, hobby groups, etc.
- **Content Groups** are for those that want to learn with others. Whether a book study, Equip Class, RightNow Media resource, or Bible study, these groups are those who want to study and grow alongside others. Examples of such groups are Missional Living Equip Class, *What You do Best in The Body* book study, etc.

COVID-19 VIRTUAL GROUPS MEETING OPTIONS

During this season where groups cannot physically meet because of COVID-19, we recommend groups to use online platforms. We recommend the following platforms:

- **Google Hangouts Meet** is a free communication platform which includes messaging, video chat, and VOIP features. It is easily accessible for those who use Google Suites or have a Gmail account. This platform also allows for a large number of participants. However, depending on group size, it limits the number of participants that are viewable at any given moment. This is a highly-recommended platform for its ease of use and accessibility.
- **Zoom** is a free cloud video conferencing platform that allows for simple online meetings, and cross platform group chat. Zoom offers the best video, audio, and screen-sharing experience across systems. However, to access the full benefits and larger group sizes, it may require a subscription. This is a highly-recommended platform for its ease of use and accessibility.
- **Skype** is a free platform that has simple text, voice and video capabilities to allow people to meet. However, to access the full benefits and larger group sizes, it may require a subscription.
- **Webex** is a platform that usually requires subscription, but is free during this COVID-19 pandemic. It allows online meeting, file sharing, information, and conversation. While it is free today, it may not be free in the future.
- **GoToMeeting** is a platform that usually requires subscription, but is free during this COVID-19 pandemic. It allows online meeting, desktop sharing, and video conferencing. While it is free today, it may not be free in the future.