WORLD OUTREACH CHURCH

LEADERSHIP TRAINING 101

Congratulations on signing up to lead a small group! As you prepare to lead, here are a few thoughts to keep in mind.

Sweaty palms are a healthy sign. The Bible says God is gracious to the humble (James 4:6). Remember who is in control; if you feel inadequate, that is probably a good sign. Those who are soft in heart (and sweaty palmed) are those whom God is sure to speak through.

Remember, you are not alone. God knows everything about you, and He knew you would be leading this group. It is common for all good leaders to feel they are not ready to lead. Moses, Solomon, Jeremiah, and Timothy—they all were reluctant to lead. God promises, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). Whether you lead a group for one evening, several weeks, or a lifetime, you will be blessed as you serve.

Just be yourself. If you won't be you, who will? God wants you to use your unique gifts and temperament. Don't try to do things exactly like another leader; do them in a way that fits you! Admit it when you don't have an answer, and apologize when you make a mistake. Your group will love you for it, and you'll sleep better at night!

Prepare. Prepare. Prepare. Go through the session video and questions ahead of time.

Share with your group what God is doing in your heart. God is searching for those whose hearts are fully His. Share your trials and victories. We promise that people will relate.

Pray for your group members by name. Before you meet for each session, take time to pray for each member by name. You may want to review any prayer requests at least once a week. Ask God to use your time together to touch the heart of every person uniquely. Expect God to lead you to whomever He wants you to encourage or challenge in a special way.

When you ask a question, be patient. Someone will eventually respond. Sometimes people need a moment or two of silence to think about the question, and if silence doesn't bother you, it won't bother anyone else. After someone responds, affirm the response with a simple, "Thanks!" or "Good job!" Then ask, "How about somebody else?" or "Would someone who hasn't shared like to add anything?" Be sensitive to new people or reluctant members who aren't ready to say, pray, or do anything. If you give them a safe setting, they will blossom over time.

End with prayer. We provided a prayer for each session that your group can read aloud together. This is also a great time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.

One final challenge (for new or first-time leaders). Before your first opportunity to lead, look up each of the five passages listed below. Read each one as a devotional exercise to help equip yourself with a shepherd's heart. Trust us on this one. If you do this, you will be more than ready for your first meeting.

- Matthew 9:36
- 1 Peter 5:2–4
- Psalm 23
- Ezekiel 34:11–16
- 1 Thessalonians 2:7–8, 11–12