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**Champion’s Handbook**

Dear Small Group Champion,

Thank you for helping us care for small group leaders at Church of the King!

You have answered the call to serve by leading as a Small Group Champion. Your role is vital in reaching the Gulf Coast region for Christ by building and caring for small group leaders.

Our prayer is that you will remain encouraged, knowing that the time invested in the lives of leaders will bear much fruit!

Small Group Champions play an important role in making disciples at Church of the King so we look for the following qualities:

**1) A heart for the house**

Serving as a Small Group Champion is one of the most impactful ways you can serve at Church of the King. Because you will be leading leaders, you will have increased influence. Therefore, it is important to be a strong vision carrier and support what God is doing through Church of the King.

**2) Godly Character**

1 Timothy 3:1-7 gives the high standards that godly leaders must strive to live by. Leaders serve best when they lead by example. Small Group Champions are called to be men and women of godly character.

**3) Leader of leaders**

Jesus declares his strategy to make disciples in Matthew 9:38 when He said, *“Pray to the Lord of the harvest to force out and thrust laborers into His harvest.”* Leadership development is the strategy Jesus used to build His disciples. Therefore, Small Group Champions are called to build and develop leaders. While this may be challenging at times, it is also one of the most rewarding opportunities you can have.

Thanks for serving as a Champion,

Danny Mequet

Small Groups Pastor

**The Vision**

*“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.”* 2 Timothy 2:2

We are called to invest our lives in people who are pouring their lives into others.

Every Small Group Host is paired with a Small Group Champion, who ***cares, communicates****,* ***and coaches*** them towards growth, both in Christ and as a leader. Small Group Champions are called to come alongside and empower small group leaders in our church. If you can do this, then you can be a successful Small Group Champion.

**The Need for You**

It takes someone like you to build our small group hosts so they can effectively ***pursue people, provide community, promote growth, and produce leaders*** at Church of the King. As a team, we want to invest in small group leaders as they impact the lives of people across the Gulf Coast Region.

*“Every leader needs a person to speak into their lives, to know them, love them, and support them. When this happens, the Holy Spirit seems to stir and awaken the leader. Suddenly ordinary people have become extraordinary instruments in the hands of God.”*

 Bill Donahue, *Coaching Life-Changing Small Group Leaders*

Small Group Champions possess a heart and desire to help leaders develop their full potential. Small group hosts need someone running alongside of them; encouraging them, supporting them, praying for them, and loving them during this season of serving. That is you!

**Your Role**

The Holy Spirit will provide spiritual growth in a leader’s life. Your role is to inspire, pray, encourage, and challenge as God provides the growth. From the beginning, it is important for you to understand the impact you can have on a small group leader.

At Church of the King, Small Group Champions are asked to do the following with their team members:

**Care**

It is important that all of our leaders are connected in relationships where they can find the support they need when facing the challenges of life. Small Group Champions represent a safe place to go when in need of counsel, prayer and support.

*"What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.”* Exodus 18:17-18

Caring will give you a voice to speak into people’s lives. Moses had someone to **care** for him, which prepared him to fulfill his God-given purpose.

**Keys to caring:**

* Regular prayer for those you are leading
* Building relationally -- this means the Small Group Champion is initiating the “care”
* Your time and energy

**6 Questions to help you care for those you are leading:**

**1) “How are you?”**

We should begin every coaching conversation by checking in to see how the person we are coaching is really doing.

**2) “What are you celebrating?”**
Moving from “How are you?” to “What are you celebrating?” keeps the tone of your relationship life-giving. This question keeps the conversation focused on where the small group leader is feeling successful.

**3) "What challenges are you facing?"**
This question gives your leader an opportunity to talk openly about the things that aren’t going very well in his or her group or team.

**4) "How will you go about those challenges?"**The best way you can serve a leader is to help him or her tap into the wisdom and insight God has already given him to deal with the situation he is facing.  It is your job, as the champion, to draw those answers or solutions out of the leader.

**5) "How can I help you?"**
One of the ways you can best serve a leader is to help them through a tough situation, so if your help is needed be willing to invest yourself in the small group leader.

**6) "How can I pray for you?"**
The best way to wrap up a coaching conversation is to ask the leader how you can be praying for him/her.  Reassure the small group leader you will be praying for him/her on a regular basis.

**Communicate**

*“Clear communication breeds confidence in those you lead.”*

Small Group Champions play a key role in keeping communication clear between the Small Group Leadership team and small group leaders. It is vital for small group leaders to know the direction/vision of the small group ministry and for the Small Group Leadership Team to know the status of all small groups.

 **Keys to communicating:**

* Champion Team Meetings Every other month
* Text messages
* Phone calls
* Face-to-face meetings or Face Time, zoom, or Skype
* Facebook/Twitter
* Email

It is important that your communication is personable and not only focused on meetings and tasks.

**Coach**

*“Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will* ***make*** *you fishers of men."* Matthew 4:19

It is important for all Small Group Leaders to have a person who can “coach” them on how to effectively lead a small group and make disciples.

Part of the Coaching process is helping lead your Team members through their Small Group Plan.

**Keys to coaching:**

* Ask the right questions – We show what we value by the questions we ask.
	+ How is your group going?
	+ Who are the emerging leaders in your group?
	+ How are you providing community?
	+ How are you promoting growth?
	+ How are you producing leaders?
	+ How many people are attending your small group?
* Be coachable – leaders are learners
* We learn how to be a successful small group leader because we reproduce who we are – We are the model (1 Corinthians 11:1)

Remember that we want to give ministry away by empowering our leaders and developing new leaders to come alongside of us in small group ministry.

**Champion Team Meeting Checklist**

During Champion Team meetings with small group leaders be sure and address the following areas. You will probably not be able to cover all the questions every meeting, but let this list serve as your guide.

Remember to be an encourager at all times!

**1) Spiritual**

• What do they feel God is teaching them?

• Is their relationship with Jesus growing?

• Are there any struggles?

**2) Relational**

• Are family and personal relationships strong?

• How are the relationships within the small group?

• How is the relationship with you?

**3) Personal**

• Are there personal issues where they need some encouragement or help?

**4) Small Group**

• How is small group going?

• What is going well with your group?

• What are the challenges in your group?

• Are you meeting every week?

• How are you helping your members learn how to read their Bibles?

• How are you helping your members learn how to pray consistently?

• How are you helping your members serve and develop godly friendships?

• How many people are attending the group?

• How many people are being invited each week to the group?

• Which curriculum are you using in your group?

Be looking for areas where you can encourage & coach them to help them succeed.

**Semester guidelines**

**Three Weeks prior to the Semester launch:** Contact your Champion Team Members and make sure they have communicated their small group plans to the Small Groups Department – smallgroups@churchoftheking.com

**Week one:**  Check with your team members to make sure they are ready to begin their small group and ask who they have invited.

**Every Other Monthly:** You should meet together as a Champion Team every other month, the designated times throughout the year**.** A Team Discussion Guide will be provided to you for this meeting.

**Weekly:** Make contact with your team members (phone call, text message, face-to-face, etc.).

**Multiply yourself**

An important part of your role is to help identify additional Small Group Champions for the small groups ministry. Identify potential future Small Group Champions and let the pastors and staff know.

**5 Keys to developing leaders:**

1) I do…you watch…we talk

2) I do…you help…we talk

3) You do…I help…we talk

4) You do…I watch…we talk

5) You do…someone else watches

If you identify someone that you think would make a good Small Group Champion please inform one of the Small Group Pastors.

**Closing**

We are called to *“Go and make disciples…”* and it is your commitment to **Care, Communicate and Coach** that will empower small group leaders to fulfill their purpose.

Thanks so much!