



Instructions for Leadership Small Group

One way to develop faithful stewardship practices in your congregation is by having a leadership team who models generosity of time, finances, and spiritual gifts and empowers others to grow in generosity. This small group is designed to be used with your Administrative Board, Church Council, or Leadership Team. It will help prepare church leaders for a stewardship campaign using the *All In* series, maintain momentum through the campaign, and encourage follow up to turn commitment into action.

These small group lessons can be used at the beginning or end of regularly scheduled meetings, or at separate, additional meetings. Each lesson should take 30-40 minutes.

Members of the Ad Board/Church Council/Leadership Team are encouraged to bring a few questions from these small group lessons to their respective committee/team meetings over the three-month timeframe, to align the work of all church leadership with the goals of the stewardship campaign.

The suggested timeline for running this small group with a leadership team is:

THE MONTH BEFORE THE CAMPAIGN BEGINS

Use first small group lesson: "The Risk"

DURING THE CAMPAIGN

Use the second small group lesson: "Common Good"

THE MONTH AFTER THE CAMPAIGN ENDS

Use the third small group lesson: "Commit"



Before the Campaign: Leadership Small Group: The Risk

OPENING PRAYER:

Good and gracious God our creator, we invite you into this place.

Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us.

We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

Quote

“We grow faith by putting ourselves in situations that will require faith of us.” Jim Martin

BREAKING THE ICE:

Name a time when you took a risk as the church.

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Luke 5:1-11

- Jesus told Simon what to do, and he did it without hesitation. Why do you think he responded that way?
- Jesus’ directive to cast the nets at that time of day was devoid of any fishing practice, yet Simon an experienced fisherman, still followed his advice. Why? How might this incident have an effect later in Simon’s ministry?

NEXT STEPS:

- What might draw people to your church’s mission and ministry opportunities?
- Are there risky opportunities that you have passed up recently? What might change after reflecting on it through the lens of this lesson?
- As church leaders, what might you learn from Simon’s actions in this lesson?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, we thank you for these words. Help us to apply them to our lives and to the ministry we do in this church and our service to all the world. Jesus, continue speaking to us so that we can know your will and follow you. Holy Spirit, guide us in a way that leads to hope, love and grace. Amen.



During the Campaign: Leadership Small Group: Common Good

OPENING PRAYER:

Good and gracious God our creator, we invite you into this place.

Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us.

We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

Quote

“For Christians, faith is a precious good, the most valuable personal and social resource. When it is left untapped, the common good suffers, not just the particular interests of Christians.” Miroslav Volf

BREAKING THE ICE:

Name some of the talents and gifts of your congregants. Remember to think of some of the less obvious ones, like compassion and hospitality.

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

- How might the spiritual gift listed be used for the common good?
- Where do the gifts come from? Why is this fact so important?

NEXT STEPS:

- Why is it important for you to discover and develop your gifts as leaders of the church?
- How do we encourage others to use their gifts to build up the mission and ministry of the church?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, we thank you for these words. Help us to apply them to our lives and to the ministry we do in this church and our service to all the world. Jesus, continue speaking to us so that we can know your will and follow you. Holy Spirit, stir in us a desire to use our gifts in a way that others will be blessed. Amen.



After the Campaign: Leadership Small Group: Commit

OPENING PRAYER:

Good and gracious God our creator, we invite you into this place.

Jesus, we light this candle as a sign of your presence.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, enlighten us.

We pray that we keep our hearts and minds open to new ideas and that we may grow in our understanding of your ways. Amen.

Quote

"We have to recognize that there cannot be relationships unless there is commitment, unless there is loyalty, unless there is love, patience, persistence." Cornel West

BREAKING THE ICE:

What was one of the most exciting times in your life when you were able to get rid of something old and replace it with something new?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:

Read Ephesians 4:22-24

- What does it mean to be renewed in the spirit of your mind?
- How can we do this as individuals? As a church?

NEXT STEPS:

- What are the new things that you will commit to as an individual that will build your faith?
- What are the new things that you will commit to as leaders of the church to build up the church for the future?
- What does it mean to be 'all in' on these commitments?
- How will you inform, inspire and connect the congregation to these new things so that they are moved to take an active part in ministry through the use of their gifts, both financial and spiritual?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, we thank you for these words. Help us to apply them to commit our lives to you, to the ministry of this church and to service to all the world. Jesus, continue speaking to us so that we can know your will and follow you. Holy Spirit guide us in a way that leads to hope, love and grace. Amen.