

# Connect Group Leaders Playbook



# WELCOME TO LEADING A CONNECT GROUP!

Connect group leader,

Thank you for taking on the responsibility of leading a Connect Group at CALVARY. Connect Groups would not be as impactful and effective if it were not for you! In this season/cycle of Connect Groups, we pray that God would refresh you as you refresh others. We believe that you will grow and God will expand your territory. We are excited to see all that God is about to do in our city.

As a Connect Group Leader, your job is so important. You will be used by God to disciple others and lead them into community and a deeper relationship with Jesus. It is our goal to turn “Rows into Circles.” We are going to do everything that we can to make that possible for people. We are praying with you as you will have highs and lows as a leader but we know that God will give you the strength, the endurance, and the wisdom everyday to lead well. We are excited for the future of Connect Groups and we are praying that the best is yet to come!

We love you,

John Lefebvre

Community Pastor

# IMPORTANCE OF CONNECT GROUPS

Our ultimate goal as a church is to:

- Reach people so that all may know God
- Help so that all may find freedom
- Teach so that all may find purpose
- Release so that all may make a difference

When we look at the vision of our church, “Help” is number two. It is vital, it is essential. We help others... through Connect Groups. It is so easy for someone to get lost in a church of our size. But in our Connect Groups, all four can begin to take place in a smaller setting. You have the ultimate opportunity to make sure those leading others are healthy. If our Connect Group leaders are healthy, our Connect Groups and everyone in them will be healthy. Your role is more valuable than you might think.

When we look at the early church, we saw that two things were so vital and important.. They met in temple courts the way we meet on Sundays but the church also then met in homes. This is where life happens, this is where a large church becomes small. Connect Groups are the heartbeat of our church in the sense where people are able to find community, find freedom and find Godly relationships we all need. I am believing that we are going to have the healthiest connect groups as healthy connect groups build healthy people.

Connect Groups at CALVARY are those small groups as people met in homes. Connect Groups consist of 15 people or less who meet all throughout cafe's, restaurants, lounges to eat and hang and talk about life.

It is in connect groups where we can pray for each other, celebrate with each other, support each other. It is in small groups where we will grow. It is in connect groups where life change will continue to happen!

## Connect groups provide opportunities for:

- **Bible Study** - There is something powerful about small groups of people gathering and opening up God's word together.
- **Fellowship** - We need Godly people around us. We become products of those we surround ourselves around.
- **Prayer** - Prayer is our first resort always. It can be difficult to pray alone sometimes. CG's provide powerful group prayer and those who can pray for me personally.
- **Support** - CG's are that place where people can have others to get through life with. Those who will protect and guide.
- **Refuge** - We need those people we can feel safe with, talk to and lead me to Christ.

## Connect Groups will be a place where people:

- **Connect**

Psalm 133:1 "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

- **Find Freedom**

James 5:16 "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

- **Grow**

Psalm 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

## Things to plan for:

### Location:

Choosing a location can be difficult. Our goal is to make this as easy as possible as you choose a location that works best for you. If you need assistance in this process, don't hesitate to contact your Connect group Coach.

Before choosing your Connect Group location, be sure to touch base with your Connect Group Coach in order to be given specific direction on which areas to be looking in. As we continue to grow, we want to make sure that we are strategic in which areas we are placing Connect Groups.

As you begin your quest for the perfect location keep these things in mind:

- Homes are always great places to meet! You can control the atmosphere.
- People shouldn't feel pressured to buy food but food should ALWAYS be an option as many people will be coming straight from work. With that being said, cafe's are a great option.
- Does your potential Connect Group location have an age restriction? Often times after certain hours of the day places have age restrictions. Make sure that the place you're considering does not have an age restriction.
- Find a place that has a good vibe, one that people enjoy being at. This might be the most important thing to consider as you are looking.
- Consider the volume of the atmosphere. Is the music so loud that it's hard to hear others during the discussion time and normal conversation?
- Stop by the location on the night that you would host your

Connect Group to get a sense of what the atmosphere is like in real time. How late is it open on this night? Talk with the owner/manager and develop a relationship beforehand.

## Connect Group Leader Responsibilities

### Be a part of all Connect Group Events

- **Connect Sunday:**

Connect Sunday is an opportunity for us to get people plugged into Connect Groups and to build excitement about the Connect Group Cycle. It happens once a cycle on a Sunday, after each service.

- **Connect Group Midway Check-in:**

Our midway check-in is designed to build up connect group leaders. We want to make sure that leaders know they are cared for and checked on. These nights there will be trainings along with opportunities to split with your net.

- **CONNECT GROUP RALLY NIGHT:**

These are the most important nights as connect groups. These nights, the vision is to UNITE, HONOR AND BUILD. We want to unite all connect groups, honor leaders and coaches, and build new leaders.

It is a night where we can reflect on how Good God has been in our groups but also vision for the future.

## USE COMMUNITY CHURCH BUILDER (CCB)

CCB: You'll use Community Church Builder (CCB) to manage your Connect Group roster, send invites, and reports. Each Connect group Leader will learn how to:

- + Send Connect Group Reports
- + Manage your roster
- + Send out invites

## COMMUNICATE WITH COACHES AND GROUPS

Most communication is done through Whatsapp. Please be sure to be on the lookout when coaches send out information, graphics, reminders to always be on the loop and on the same page.

In addition, please communicate often with your groups

## FILL OUT REPORTS

Depending on what day your group meets, there is a report link you must fill out every time your group meets.

To access the link, please go to [calvary-leader.com](http://calvary-leader.com) or contact your coach.

## LIVE A LIFE OF OVERFLOW

We should always Embody and Reflect Core Values and Principles of Calvary Leadership. People will imitate their leaders. We always represent something bigger than ourselves. We need you to be healthy. Please make sure that you are sitting one and serving one.

# THINGS EVERY CONNECT GROUP LEADER SHOULD DO

## **1. Check on groups members individually weekly**

- a. More than just leaders who are leading groups, they also need to be healthy spiritually, emotionally, physically. You have the ability to pour into them and build them up.
- b. If a member hasn't been showing up to church on a Sunday, you have the opportunity to pastor them and make sure they are okay.
- c. Find out if there is anything they may need help with and haven't spoken up about
- d. This is where discipleship and pastoring takes place

## **2. Pray for your connect group**

One of the most powerful things you can do is pray for your connect group consistently. As we pray, our groups will remain healthy and continue to grow.

## **1. Fill out reports weekly.**

- a. Numbers aren't everything but having these reports allows us to have the most accurate information to assess the health of our groups.

## **2. Create memorable moments**

Groups shouldn't be repetitive or formulaic. Stick to the structure but create opportunities for groups to be fun and spontaneous. Be intentional with spending time with people in connect group and outside of it.

## **3. Contact your Connect group weekly**

Maintaining contact with people in our connect groups is vital not just in group but outside of it. Making those calls, texts and setting aside time to connect with people outside of Connect Group is when real discipleship and growth takes place.



#### **4. Encourage Spiritual Growth**

Part of our Roles as Connect Group Leaders is pointing people to Jesus constantly. To look like Jesus is to act like Jesus. We want healthy people in our Connect Groups because healthy things grow. We model and bring others along the journey of spiritual growth.

#### **5. Celebrate Special Occasions**

Everyone likes to be celebrated! Take some time out of Connect Group to celebrate BIG MOMENTS! Birthdays, anniversaries, engagements, new jobs, new babies, first time attenders... There is always something big we can celebrate! When we celebrate people, it shows people we value them.

#### **6. Connect people to church life**

The best thing is that everyone has a next step. Lets not allow people to stay stagnant but encourage them to grow, to walk into the thing God has for them as He is always doing a new thing.

# CONNECT GROUP CURRICULUM

## **Option 1: Calvary Church Weekly Study**

Every week, we have an incredible team that writes brand new studies based on messages that were preached the previous Sunday. These are incredible opportunities to bring the message to real life application week in and week out.

You can access these studies on RightNow Media... A platform we use as a church. To get access, please go to your starter pack found at [www.calvary-leader.com](http://www.calvary-leader.com)

## **Option 2: Studies on RightNow Media**

RightNow Media is known as the Netflix of Christian Studies. There are a ton of studies on here that you can do with your connect group and we have curated studies easily accessible to fit your net best.

You can access these studies on RightNow Media... A platform we use as a church. To get access, please go to your starter pack found at [www.calvary-leader.com](http://www.calvary-leader.com)

## **Option 3: Bible Study**

You can go through a certain book of the Bible as a connect group and dissect verse by verse if you'd like.

## **Option 4: Get study approved by your Connect Group Coach**

If there is a study you would like to do, ask your connect group coach and if approved, feel free to do that study.

## Tips to Facilitating a Good Connect Group Discussion

1. Come in prepared. Do not wing it, people know when we wing it.
2. Ask open ended questions to encourage full participation
3. Have other questions ready to push the conversation further
4. Embrace the 30%-70% rule. 70% of the speaking should come from the members in the group while leaders should only speak about 30%.
5. Keep discussion positive and discourage a critical spirit amongst your group
6. Carefully lead discussions back to the topic when tangents occur. Where sensitive issues or complex questions arise in your group, follow up one-one after the meeting.

# A CONNECT GROUP FLOW THAT WORKS!

**We want you to have an effective connect group and here's a good flow you can run with... We have created a whole checklist you can follow weekly found at [www.calvary-leader.com](http://www.calvary-leader.com)**

- Arrive to meeting place 20-30 minutes early
- 20-30 minutes of fellowship (snacks, food coffee)
- 5 minutes of Welcome
  - Introduce yourself
  - Explain what a connect group is
  - How often do you meet?
  - Honor anyone who is new
  - Tell everyone how long group will be
- 10 Minutes of an Ice Breaker
  - Have everyone state their name
  - Choose one that is fun
- 25-30 minutes of Connect Group Study
- 5 minutes of Praise Reports
- 5-10 minutes of prayer requests
- 2 minutes of Church announcements
- Honor someone (Marriage, a new job, bday)
- Individually thank people for coming
- Fill out Report right after group

# How to Stay in the Fight for the Long Haul

Leading a Connect Group is not always easy but it will always be rewarding. You are built to stay for the Long Haul.

## **1. MAKE A COMMITMENT**

Making a commitment daily makes our choices simple. If we commit to staying fit, the choice to work out becomes an automatic yes. It's the same for leading Connect Group. We get to recommit to community daily. When we commit, we won't quit.

## **2. FIND TIME FOR REFRESHING**

Even marathon runners pause to refuel during a race. In order for us to pour out, we must be refreshed by the one who restores our soul, Jesus. Let's be leaders who make time to be in the presence of Jesus daily.

## **3. COMMUNICATE BEFORE YOU QUIT**

When you leave, you have a gap to fill. At CALVARY, we aren't leaders that give up, but leaders that build up. Say something when you feel something. There is power in conversation.

## **4. REPEAT WHEN NECESSARY**

Leaders are self-aware. Check in with yourself daily and take ownership of whether you need to recommit, refresh, or communicate.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!**  
**THIS WILL BE THE BEST SEASON YET!**