

# WELCOME

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So you think you're ready to be a real-life small group leader?

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We want to see students develop a BIG, authentic kind of faith. It's a BIG challenge, but we believe it can happen through something SMALL. . . You—the small group leader! We believe we can help students cultivate authentic faith through leading small.

When we lead small, we realize that what we do for a few will always have more potential than what we do for many. When we lead small, we simply make a choice to invest strategically in the lives of a few (your small group) over time so that we can help them build an authentic faith. That's what being a small group leader is all about!

## THE WIN

As a small group leader, you win when students have meaningful interactions, both inside and outside of small group, that influence their faith in Jesus and deepen their relationships with others.

## JOB DESCRIPTION

What exactly IS a small group leader? A friend? A parent? A coach? A teacher? Here's what we define as a small group leader: A small group leader is anyone who chooses to invest in the lives of a few to encourage authentic faith. Every SGL should do five things:

- **Be Present:** Connect students' faith to a community by showing up predictably, mentally, and randomly.
- **Create a Safe Place:** Clarify students' faith as they grow by leading the group, respecting the process, and guarding the heart.
- **Partner with Parents:** Nurture an everyday faith by cueing the parent, honoring the parent, and reinforcing the family.
- **Make it Personal:** Inspire students' faith through your example by living in community, setting priorities, and being real.
- **Move Them Out:** Engage students' faith in a bigger story by moving them to someone else, moving them to be the church, and moving them to what's next.

## QUALIFICATIONS

To be a small group leader, you don't have to be a Bible scholar, pass a theological aptitude test, or display a particular set of special spiritual gifts. You don't even need to be that cool. Here's all you need to do:

- Love God.
- Live your life as an example of what it looks like to a follower of Jesus and share your faith story with your few.
- Care about middle and high schoolers.
- Be committed to consistently investing in and caring for your few over a period of time.
- Complete and pass the application, background check, and interview process.

## EXPECTATIONS

- Serve weekly.
- Show up on time.
- Come prepared with the questions and materials you need for group.
- Communicate with Hayley, Director of Youth Ministries, and Stacey, Associate Director of Youth Ministries.
- Complete new leader training and attend additional training events and meetings whenever possible.

# SGL

## APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you volunteered at our church before?  Yes  No

If so, where and how long? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been attending our church? \_\_\_\_\_

Which age group would you prefer to work with (Middle or High)? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a preference between volunteering Wednesday evenings or Sunday afternoons?

What skills could you offer to this role? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about being a small group leader? \_\_\_\_\_

Small group leaders show up predictably and consistently each week to build trust and relationships with their group. Is there anything that would prevent you from meeting with your group every week?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to submit to a background check?  Yes  No

Briefly tell us your faith story: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you want to be a small group leader? \_\_\_\_\_

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Please return this to Heather Kinkead in the church office or via email ([hkinkead@woodlakeumc.org](mailto:hkinkead@woodlakeumc.org))

