



Small Group Leaders: Frequently Asked Questions

Why are Small Groups important at Gloria Dei? Small Groups are the best way to sustain life change by living out our four life measures within community:

1. Living as a Friend
2. Learning as a Follower
3. Loving as a Servant
4. Leading as a Guide

What happens at a Small Group meeting? A typical Small Group meeting will start with a casual gathering (often with food and drink) and then move into a group time that consists of sharing, watching a video, discussing insights and praying for each other.

Do I have to be a member? We do require that all Small Group leaders be members of Gloria Dei. However, not all members of your group have to be Gloria Dei members.

Where do we meet? Most groups meet in the leader's home, but that is not a requirement. Some groups choose to meet at a restaurant or at Gloria Dei.

Do all Small Groups use the same studies? No. Every Small Group is unique and selects materials that are pertinent to them. Gloria Dei offers suggested studies to assist Small Groups as well as the full RightNow Media library.

What does a Small Group study look like? Most groups use studies that involve a video followed by group discussion. Some groups use books or other resources to guide Small Group discussion.

What if I have a limited Bible knowledge? Our Small Group leaders vary in Bible knowledge from recent Christian believers to those that were born and raised Lutheran Christians. The one fact that remains the same is a desire amongst the leaders to grow spiritually alongside others at Gloria Dei.

How often do we meet? Meeting frequency is up to each individual group. Existing groups meet weekly, biweekly or monthly.

What time of day do we meet? Time of day is also up to each individual group depending on your availability. Most meet in the evenings or on the weekends, but we do have a couple groups such as retirees or stay-at-home moms who meet on weekday mornings.

How long does each meeting last? Typical group meetings last for 1 – 2 hours depending on



whether or not there is food and drink, fellowship or a service project involved.

How many people should be in my group? Groups vary from 6-20 members depending on the group dynamic.

How do I get people in my group? Many leaders prefer to recruit from members of the congregation they know and their neighbors, but Gloria Dei also encourages recruiting from the Essentials new member class as well as promoting on the website and in the weekly What's Happening email to find new connections.

Do I need to provide food/refreshments? Food and refreshments are not a requirement for Small Groups. Many choose to offer it as a way to socialize causally prior to diving into the study. Some groups also rotate providing food/refreshments by each member.

How do I handle childcare? There are a few options for childcare depending on your group's needs and preferences:

1. Childcare is the responsibility of each individual member
2. The group together hires a babysitter to watch all the children at the location where you meet in another room
3. For children that are old enough, they may join in on the prayers and fellowship at the beginning of each meeting and then play on their own in another room during the study

What will this cost me? The cost for leading the group should be relatively low depending on if you choose to provide food/refreshments or need childcare. Gloria Dei now provides a subscription to RightNow Media to stream DVDs so leaders only need to purchase leader guides or books as appropriate to the study selected by the group.

How long is the commitment for? The commitment varies by group. Some choose to make the commitment for a year while others choose to meet for the length of a study (4-6 weeks) and then see how they want to move forward from there. Also, many groups take a break during the summer.

What are my responsibilities outside of the meeting? We ask that each Small Group leader take prayer requests, provide icebreakers to ease into the conversation, lead life measure discussions and share the discussion questions from Gloria Dei during church-wide campaigns at each meeting. We also ask that leaders share membership and the health status of the group with Erica Gremillion in order to help support and grow the Small Group



ministry.

Who do I contact if I have questions? Questions can be sent at any time to egremillion@gdlc.org. You can also call Erica Gremillion at 281.333.4535 ext. 1063.