

ZEAL GROUPS



WHY DO WE DO GROUPS?

As a church, we believe that life change happens in relationship with others. The core values of Zeal include three that are essential for growing a strong body of believers.

- People are our focus
- Community is our heart
- Leadership is our calling

Real life change happens and real leaders are developed, when we take a step towards intentional relationships.

"They met day after day, in the Temple courts and from house to house."

- Acts 5:4

OUR MODEL

In the early church, small groups were the foundation of community. It is for this reason that Zeal focuses so heavily on our community and our people. By choosing to lead a Group, you are supporting the idea that to grow larger and reach more people, we have to first grow more intentionally with a smaller group of people.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

- Hebrews 10:25

LIFE CHANGE HAPPENS IN RELATIONSHIPS.

ZEAL GROUPS PROVIDE:

1. A PLACE TO CONNECT.

Groups provide a place to connect with others, share life, and passionately pursue a heart for Jesus. We were not made to do life alone. God created us for community

"Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him."

- 1 Corinthians 9:22

2. A PLACE TO PROTECT.

Groups create a support system, a lifeline. God's love pouring out of each of us creates a community that encourages one another, fights the battles with one another and celebrates the wins together.

"We know what real love is because Christ gave up his life for us. And so we ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters."

- 1 John 3:16

3. A PLACE TO GROW.

Groups are a community of people you can grow with to become more like Jesus and reach the full potential God has put inside you.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

- Proverbs 27:17

TYPES OF ZEAL GROUPS

- GROW GROUPS
- MEN
- WOMEN
- CO-ED
- STUDENTS





We have compiled a collection of 10 week, curriculum-based classes that focus on the Five Pillars of Health. The curriculum for these groups will be chosen by the Zeal Groups Team and led by Zeal Groups Team members. Grow Groups have the following areas of focus:

1. **FOUNDATIONS**

Focused on deepening our understanding of firmly planting the core building blocks of our faith.

2. **FREEDOM**

Equipping you to live in the victory of God's love, and freeing yourself from the burdens and sins of the past.

3. **FAMILY & RELATIONSHIPS**

Focusing specifically on the spiritual health of friendships, relationships, marriage, and children.

4. **FINANCES**

Learn how to steward God's financial blessings well by not only providing for yourself and your family, but also allowing you to give generously.

5. **FITNESS**

Learn what the Bible says about fitness for your entire self, body, mind, and soul while focusing on your physical health with accountability.



HOW DO I STRUCTURE MY ZEAL GROUP?

A great Zeal Group has a **PLAN** that includes time for:

1. CASUAL CONVERSATION

Spend time building relationships and getting to know each other.

2. ACTIVITY

This will vary based on what kind of group you're leading. It could be an activity like frisbee, an outreach, or a video curriculum.

3. SPIRITUAL COMPONENT/DISCUSSION

The Word

This can be as simple as sharing something God is teaching you with the group or engaging the group in a discussion with open-ended questions.

Worship

Have worship music playing in the background or share a playlist to lead them in worship throughout the week.

Prayer

Ask for prayer requests from group members and pray at the beginning and/or the end of each group meeting.

ZEAL GROUPS ARE NOT A PLACE FOR:

- Conducting business
- Collecting offerings
- Introducing unapproved materials or speakers
- Discussing controversial topics
- Alcohol

SOME GUIDELINES THAT HELP US BUILD HEALTHY ZEAL GROUPS INCLUDE:

1. SET EXPECTATIONS.

2. BE PREPARED.

3. CONSISTENCY IS CRITICAL.

4. FOLLOW THE 80/20 TALKING RULE.

80% of talking should come from members and only 20% from a leader.

5. KEEP THE DISCUSSION POSITIVE.

6. STEER THE DISCUSSION SO EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE.

Everyone is at a different place in their journey with Christ and may not grasp terms we consider common (i.e. "spiritual warfare").

7. BUILD HEALTHY BOUNDARIES.

We understand that not all co-ed groups will have a male and female leader. We encourage you to seek guidance from your coach or the pastoral care team should you find a group member needing guidance.



ZEAL ENVIRONMENTS

We prepare rooms with everything someone would need, before they even knew they needed it.

HOW TO SET A ROOM

- TV is on with a graphic
- Lights are on
- Music is playing
- Room smells good (candles are lit)
- Seating is set up for the audience (set out the amount of chairs you expect to fill, no seat should be empty)
- We are generous with our resources, we set out more than we need
- We send out agendas ahead of time
- Rooms are set up at least 15 minutes before anyone arrives

HOW TO RESET A ROOM

- Furniture is put back in its original place
- Surfaces are wiped down with Clorox wipes
- All trash is collected from the room and thrown away
- Garbage is taken all the way to the dumpster
- New garbage bag is put in trash can
- Room is vacuumed
- Candles are blown out
- Lights & electronics are turned off
- Doors are locked



WHAT IS THE WIN?

1. WINNING LOOKS LIKE CARING.

As leaders, we can outwardly show that we care by:

- Following up with our group members individually, especially if they've confided in you about struggles or victories
- Challenging those group members who are experiencing spiritual warfare with truth in love
- Being the light and the voice of encouragement

As leaders, we can show loyalty by:

- Outwardly expressing our belief in one another's potential
- Keeping total confidence in conversations (don't gossip)

If someone is in a crisis and has publicly shared their struggle with the group, rally the group in support. Use wisdom and be sensitive, because it is an honor to walk with people through difficult times. As a leader, you have a support system walking with you too. Don't be afraid to seek guidance from your coaches. Always remember, we do not have to fix people—we point them to the One who can.

When you feel like you don't know how to help someone in your group, remember: **ESPN**

E: Encourage

S: Share Scripture

P: Pray

N: Next Steps

2. WINNING LOOKS LIKE GROWTH

At Zeal Church, we talk a lot about leading people to reach their full potential in Jesus Christ and helping them take next steps.

The primary role of a group leader is to help members understand and take full advantage of their unique walk with Christ.

People in your group will be at different places in their spiritual lives and each person will have different steps to take to deepen their relationship with Christ. As a leader, you may find it appropriate to encourage members of your group to grow in specific disciplines as a stepping-stone in their walk.

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| • Reading the Bible | • Begin tithing | • Attending Sunday Services |
| • Inviting a friend or neighbor to church or a Grow Group | • Water Baptism | • Joining the Dream Team |
| • Praying regularly | • Completing Zeal Connect | • Serving with our Outreach Team |

"Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds."

- Proverbs 27:23



LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

1. LEAD WITH OTHERS IN MIND BY:

- Praying daily
- Connecting outside of the group
- Creating a fun, life-giving environment
- Sharing the load (co-leader)
- Respecting people's time (start/stop on time)
- Inviting people to growth



2. PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP

PRAYER IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CHURCH

- Pray for requests from group members.
- Ask for the Holy Spirit's presence in your group.
- Pray God will open people's hearts to His truth.
- Pray for authentic community in the group.
- Pray for wisdom and strength to lead your group well, and protection for your family.

COACHES

Group Coaches are the support system for all of our Group Leaders. For each group leader they:

- Contact you at the beginning of the semester to give you their information
- Care for you as needs arise in your life
- Support you as a point of contact for questions or situations that arise with members
- Encourage you
- Pray for you, providing additional spiritual covering

A photograph of two women embracing warmly at an outdoor social gathering. The woman on the left, with dark skin and braided hair, is smiling broadly with her eyes closed. She wears a light-colored dress with a small orange and grey floral pattern. The woman on the right, with light skin and long brown hair, is holding a black smartphone in her left hand and a white cup in her right. She also wears a similar floral dress. In the background, another woman with blonde hair is visible, looking away. The scene is set outdoors with greenery and a building in the distance.

CULTURE GUIDE

VALUES

PEOPLE ARE OUR FOCUS

People matter to God, so they matter to us. We make no apologies for going above and beyond to reach people. We do for one what we can't do for all.

COMMUNITY IS OUR HEART

Life change happens in relationships. We are intentional about doing life in community that connects, protects, and grows us. We are better together.

PASSION IS OUR REFLEX

Passion is our automatic response to everything we do. Passion for Jesus. Passion for people. Passion for the local church. We get loud and we will not apologize for that! We believe that church is a place to laugh and have fun.

LEADERSHIP IS OUR CALLING

Leadership is influence and we all have influence in someone's life. God has called us to equip and empower others to fully step into their strengths that He has already placed in them. It's an honor to lead someone to their next step.

EXCELLENCE IS OUR STANDARD

We are always going to do our best with what's in our hands. We never want to do something halfway, because we know that everything we do is for the Lord!

INNOVATION IS OUR ATTITUDE

We see opportunities, not problems. We constantly put things on the chopping block and we believe the best idea wins. We aren't afraid to do things that other people won't try.

GENEROSITY IS OUR PRIVILEGE

We see generosity as an honor, not an obligation. We get to be generous with our time, talents, and treasures. We give God the first and best in all areas of our lives, because He has given so much to us.

CULTURAL LANGUAGE

As a team we are unified in our language.

DON'T SAY...

Your church

My team

My Zeal Group

Volunteer

Band/singers

I have to

I don't know

I know serving is hard

Childcare

Downstairs

Visitor

Is this your first time?

INSTEAD SAY...

Our church

Our team

Our Zeal Group

Dream Team

Worship Team

I get to

Let me find out for you

You are making a difference

Zeal Kids

First Floor

First Time Guest

How long have you been coming?

LEADERSHIP "FACTOR"

"**FACTOR**" serves as a guide for leaders as they begin identifying, developing, and empowering new leaders in their department. Use this tool to help you identify those who are ready to step into leadership.

FAITHFUL

A faithful leader is consistent, dependable, and all-in.

ATTITUDE

A leader with a great attitude is life-giving, honoring, and believes the best about people.

COMPETENT

A competent leader is self-aware, solutions-focused, and empowering.

TEACHABLE

A teachable leader is a student in every environment, humble, and embraces correction as part of the learning process.

OWNER

A leader with high ownership is gritty, proactive, and a good steward of resources.

RELATIONAL

A relational leader is authentic, approachable, and values people's heart over their hand.



ACTION ITEMS

- Complete both of our Zeal Connect Classes
- Sign and submit the Honor Code
- Register your group online at zealchurch.tv/groups.
- Track Weekly Attendance through Planning Center Groups *(An email will be delivered to you automatically at the start of your group weekly).*

If you have any questions, please reach out to your group coach or e-mail: smallgroups@zealchurch.tv



SUGGESTED CURRICULUM-BASED GROW GROUP SCHEDULE

20 MINUTES

Casual conversation (snacking as desired)

20-35 MINUTES

Curriculum viewing/chapter highlights
and/or main points

20 MINUTES

Discussion questions related to curriculum/chapter

15 MINUTES

Prayer requests and group prayer

