



COMMUNITY
GROUPS



WHERE THE REST OF CHURCH HAPPENS

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“For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”

Matthew 18:20

Vox Church Community Groups' Leader Guide

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Written and designed by Vox Church

At Vox Church, we believe that every individual was designed to live in biblical community with one another. Before the world began, community existed in the relationship between God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:26, 2 Cor. 13:14). If it's important to God, it's important to us!

Thank you for your interest in leading a Community Group. We truly believe groups are where the rest of church happens. Our heart is to see God's people coming together regularly, growing in a stronger, deeper relationship with Jesus through his Word, building lasting friendships, and making an impact in the community together.

As you go through this Community Group Leader Guide, my prayer is that you will catch the vision for groups and grow in excitement to lead them.

Justin Kendrick, Lead Pastor

Vox Church

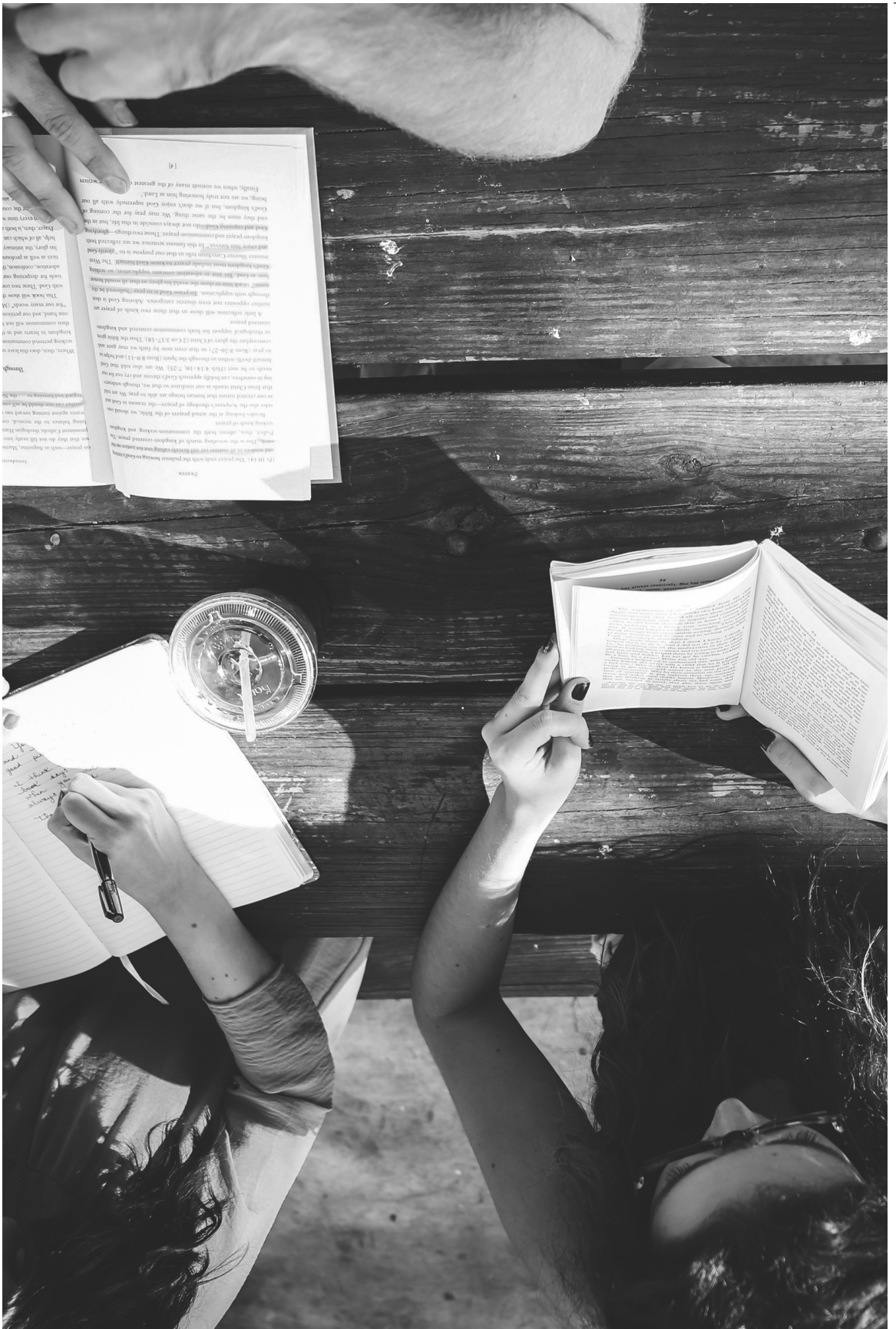


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WHY COMMUNITY GROUPS?

*We were created to **NEED** one
another.*

“There are many parts but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you.’ The head can’t say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you’...there should be no division in the body, but its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it” (I Corinthians 12:12; 21,25–26).

We need **EACH OTHER** to **OPERATE** fully as the
body of Christ.

We **SUFFER** together; we **REJOICE TOGETHER**.

We can't reach our individual potential without the **TOGETHER** of the body of Christ.

We were created to be WITH one another so that the world may know Jesus.

“I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be ONE, just as You and I are one—as You are in me, Father, and I am in You. And may THEY be in US so that the world will believe You sent me” (John 17:20–21).

How does a unified body of Christ make the good news of Jesus Christ known? When followers of **JESUS** take coming **TOGETHER** seriously!

Community Groups are where the rest of church happens! Acts 2:42–47

People are hungry for love, friendship, purpose, and life transformation, and we believe groups are the best structure to make that happen. We believe that Sunday morning gatherings of worship and Bible teaching, partnered with Community Groups and CORE Groups, help shape the believer to become more and more like Jesus Christ.

VOX CHURCH CORE VALUES

Jesus at the Center

We believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the most important truth in life. Jesus lived a perfect life, died a substitutionary death, and rose from the dead. This one truth changes every other part of life (1 Cor. 15:3–4). Vox Church is committed to applying this life-changing truth to every corner of our hearts and lives. We want the good news of grace to reshape how we see God, how we see ourselves, and how we see the world. This truth is our first and central value.

Intentional Community

Community is how God does things. Scripture teaches that God is one in essence and three in person (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). God has designed humanity in such a way that we need each other to know and experience God fully.

It's true that each of us should have a personal relationship with God, but it's equally true that there are aspects of God we can never know until we invest in deep relationship with his people. This type of — sacred community does not happen by accident. We must be intentional about growing it and sustaining it. We believe in seven key elements that make up intentional community.

1. **Proximity Provides Opportunity:** Time and energy are required for a healthy relationship to grow.
2. **Vulnerability Creates Connection:** When you open your life, God connects your heart.
3. **Discipleship Sets Direction:** Our goal is to become more like Christ collectively.
4. **Fun Amplifies Grace:** When we learn to enjoy God's gifts and enjoy one another, God is glorified.
5. **Sacrifice Matures Love:** Growing in love requires that you give something up for one another.
6. **Mission Drives Adventure:** God calls us to participate in his great purpose on earth.
7. **Boundaries Sustain Growth:** Healthy limits produce healthier relationships.

City Mission

A holy urgency marks the heart of Vox Church. We believe that time is short, people need God, and he has called his church to be a voice. The name “Vox” comes from the Latin word for voice, and we believe that God desperately wants to speak to those far from him and bring them close. His primary method to do this is his church. As the people of God, we want to echo his truth in every corner of our world through sharing the gospel, serving the poor, helping those in need, seeking the good of the city, partnering with other churches and organizations, and participating in global missions (Matt. 28:19–20).



VISION FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

*Practicing life in Christ (Jesus at
the Center)*

What does this look like?

- Learning to apply the gospel to every area of our lives DAILY
- Making every effort to place Jesus at the head of everything we do: allowing the truth of who HE is and what HE has done to change who WE are becoming

What does that look like in a CG?

- Discussing the SERMON or OTHER TEACHING together and applying it to our lives

- Learning spiritual disciplines together (Reading/memorizing Scripture, fasting, silence and reflection/journaling, etc.)
- Worshiping together
- Praying together
- Sharing faith and learning how to inspire one another to do the same

Together (Intentional Community)

What does this look like?

- Positioning yourself **to be known** by others and to display **mutual care** for one another (Acts 4:32–34).
- Proximity—Positioning the ebb and flow of your life and family rhythms so that intentional time with “others” is prioritized. (NO ISLANDS!)

What does that look like in a CG?

- Sharing meals (DINNER NIGHTS)
- Game nights
- Hanging out together outside of the group

- Rejoicing with one another in times of celebrating and rallying around someone in your group in need
- Being committed to praying for one another

On Mission (City Mission)

What does this look like?

- Applying the love of God through others-focused living
- Identifying a people-need outside the walls of our church and being a part of a gospel solution together

What does that look like in a CG?

- Serving 1x/month at a soup kitchen or shelter together
- Find out about and adopt a family in need, take them dinner 1x/month
- Spend time at a nursing home together 1x/month
- Connect with your central or local outreach director and see if there are needs you can meet as a group

COMMUNITY GROUP STRUCTURE

Central Community Groups Director

—

Campus Community Group Director

—

Community Group Coach

—

Community Group Leader

—

Community Group H.O.S.T.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY GROUP HOST?

Anyone can HOST a Vox Church Community Group. A HOST is an individual who has agreed to a short-term commitment to host a group.

Has a heart for people

Open your place (meet in a home, coffee house, restaurant, workplace)

Serve a snack

Turn on the video (Facilitate discussions from the sermon questions)

HOW DO I BECOME A HOST?

If you have a heart to gather people and grow in your faith, follow these simple steps below to get started:

1. **APPLY.** Fill out the Host Form on the Vox website under “Start a Group” on the Groups page. The Community Group Director from your campus will reach out to you to help set up your group.
2. **PICK A DAY.** When your Campus Community Group Director calls, let them know the day, time, and location you want to have your group. They will connect you to a Community Group Coach who will come alongside you as you start your group.
3. **HOST.** Invite your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, or people you meet at church to attend your group! Talk to your coach about what to study first.

IS A HOST A CG LEADER?

Not yet. A HOST’s group is *invite-only* and is not on the Vox website. Once a HOST becomes a CG Leader, the group can be advertised on the Vox website, which helps recruit new people to join the group.

HOW DOES A HOST BECOME A CG LEADER?

A host can become a leader after completing an Essentials Class to become a member. Additionally, a CG leader should at least complete the CG Leader Experience or a CG Leader Training. These are offered at each campus throughout the year. Ask your Campus CG Director or Campus Pastor for details.

CORE GROUPS

WHAT IS A CORE GROUP? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR MY LIFE?

A CORE Group is 3–4 people of the same gender from a Community Group who commit to meet outside of Community Group time. Together, they actively pursue *GROWING DEEPER* as *DISCIPLES* of Jesus Christ by developing 7 CORE HABITS:

1. **Relationship:** Daily time alone with God.
2. **Radiance:** Share your faith every week.
3. **Receptivity:** Obeying the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
4. **Righteousness:** Live within the accountability of biblical sexual boundaries.
5. **Resources:** Trust in God as you practice generosity.
6. **Rest:** Submit to God and practice weekly Sabbath rest.
7. **Replication:** Invest in someone else.

To start a CORE group & access the CORE material go to our website: voxchurch.org.

CG LEADER QUALIFICATIONS

Because of the vital role the CG Leader has in accomplishing the vision of discipleship in our church, there are a few crucial qualities that they need to be practicing in their lives.

PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Committed FIRST to actively pursuing Jesus (I Cor. 11:1).

- Do I have a life that is truly growing in Christ?
- Do I have a desire for the practice of personal spiritual disciplines?
- Do I have a desire to reach out to others with the love of Christ I've experienced?

EMBODY GROUP LIFE

You don't need to be a group dynamics GURU, but you must believe in the power of healthy community

IN CHRIST and are COMMITTED to helping people experience it.

DESIRE TO PASS IT ON

Desire to see a positive, healthy CG experience with a group replicated! Willingness to see others experience the joy of being a part of a group that:

- **CARES** for one another well
- **LAUGHS** with one another... **A LOT!**
- **CHALLENGES** one another to know God's Word more (1 Thess. 2:11–12)

COMMITTED TO PRAYER

Committed **HEART** to **PRAY** regularly for the members of your group.

CG LEADER EXPECTATIONS

WHAT DO I DO AS A LEADER?

1. Set group type & rhythms
2. Invite others to your group
3. Choose what to study
4. Report attendance on a roster
5. Select what to study next
6. Communicate well & often
7. Navigate group dynamics
8. Lean into support system
9. Look for leaders in your group
10. Continue training & equipping

SET GROUP TYPE & RHYTHMS

What kind of group do you want?

- Ongoing group (no end; occasional breaks)
- Module group (meets for predetermined periods of time; then breaks)
- Open group (anyone can join any time)
- Closed group (set number/people group)
- Frequency (number of days the group meets in a month)

INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN THE GROUP

Pick a regular meeting location, day, and time of the week and invite people to join! Most groups range from 5–20 people.

CHOOSE WHAT TO STUDY

There is a plethora of options to choose from. Please refer to pages 26–28 in this booklet or go to “Leader Resources” on the Vox website.

REPORT ATTENDANCE

Data matters. We need your help to ensure we are making accurate decisions. CG Directors will explain how to use a Vox Church account.

- Leaders take attendance on the Vox website under “My Account”
- Keep Group Roster up to date!
- Pending Members: Registered online or through sign-ups
- Active Members: Ensure it is up to date. If not active, please make inactive
- Notify CG directors if the group ends or breaks

SELECT WHAT TO STUDY NEXT

Helping your group ask the right **QUESTIONS** to determine where to go next:

- What has God been saying to dive into further?
- Are there any needs in our group that have emerged we want to talk through further through a biblical, Christian lens?

- Are there any apparent “gaps” in our collective understanding of an aspect of Christian life that we want to try to close together?
- Are there things about God (his character, his gospel, his mission) and his Word that God has been prodding you to know and pursue more together?

COMMUNICATE WELL & OFTEN

Leader-to-member communication is vital. Without it, confusion wins. Be sure to communicate:

- Date, Location, or time changes
- What to bring (if anything)
- Inform the group of new people joining

Take full advantage of the many avenues of communication available today: text messages, emails, phone calls, Facebook messages, in person, and through your “My Account” page on the Vox website.

NAVIGATE GROUP DYNAMICS

Wherever people gather, there will be issues. As you facilitate discussion into deeper waters, remember:

- Always keep Jesus at the center
- Refer to the Vox Core beliefs as a reference point on page 48.
- There is freedom to explore, pray, and dig as you keep your eyes on truth
- Don't be afraid to ask someone else—you don't need to have all the answers
- Bring in others to the discussion (other leaders, CG Director, Coaches, Campus Pastor)

LEAN INTO SUPPORT SYSTEM

Each campus has a support team available for all Community Group Leaders. The team consists of a Campus Community Group Director and Coaches. Whenever you need prayer, encouragement, assistance, ideas, or wisdom on how to handle situations, we would encourage you to lean into your support system.

LOOK FOR LEADERS IN YOUR GROUP

Every group has at least one or two people who could lead a group someday. They may just need a little encouragement and help. Refer to page 39 on how to develop future CG Leaders.

CONTINUE TRAINING & EQUIPPING

Whether campus or centrally directed, we encourage you to continue to learn and grow as a CG Leader. You may wonder, what is offered?

- CG Leader Experience (for potential CG Leaders)
- CG Leader Trainings (for hosts who want to become leaders)
- CG Leader Equipping (for CG Leaders to continue developing as leaders)
- RightNow Media has training videos for CG Leaders to watch **or** Vox Pipeline Videos (created by Vox Church to assist in training Leaders) 1x/month



ONLINE COMMUNITY GROUPS

Whether due to circumstances, geography, stage of life, or preference, Online Community Groups are a great alternative to traditional in-person groups. The same qualifications, expectations, training, and equipping apply to online group leaders and hosts. We encourage online groups to create in-person interactions such as hangouts or meetups to supplement their group meeting schedule.

If you are interested in leading an online group...

1. Fill out the “Start a Group” form on the groups’ page on the Vox website and select “online” as your campus. Our Online Campus Pastor will get back to you with the next steps, or you can contact your Campus CG Director for next steps.
2. Start at #1 of the CG Leader Expectations on page 17 and start making decisions to accomplish the expectations.

3. Familiarize yourself with the Vox website, sermon questions, sermon series, CG Leader resources, RightNow Media, and Pipeline videos.
4. Participate in trainings and equippings when they are offered.
5. Participate in Community Group events and Group Links (Group Links described in the FAQs on page 42).

CG GATHERINGS

WHAT HAPPENS AT A CG?

Typically, a regular Community Group gathering time should include an aspect of fellowship, worship, Bible study, and prayer.

FELLOWSHIP (10-15 minutes)

Fellowship comes in many shapes and forms. Often it will look like laughter, telling stories, eating together, playing an ice breaker game, sharing life hack ideas, celebrating a birthday, and more. Other times, it will look like sharing a testimony, talking about something amazing God did, or having a few members share their favorite Bible verses and why.

Look for a creative person to lead a different kind of fellowship aspect each week or rotate that responsibility between group members.

WORSHIP (10-15 minutes)

Cultivating times of worship together is an important aspect of each gathering, during which the group focuses on God's presence and the ability to express love for him.

How do you incorporate it?

The best time is right at the beginning. Open in short prayer and then begin. This sets the evening and focuses on Jesus.

Who leads it?

- It can be led by anyone gifted musically.
- You can also play songs digitally (YouTube, Spotify) lyrics on screen are helpful, if possible.
- Choose two songs prior to people coming and have them cued up and ready to go
- Prayer, praise, and Bible readings are great options as well.

BIBLE STUDY/DISCUSSION (30-45 minutes)

With becoming a mature disciple of Jesus as the goal for every believer (Eph. 4:13), diving into **LEARNING** and **LIVING** out God's Word in very practical ways is of greatest importance in each gathering.

Vox Church provides a plethora of resources to assist CG Leaders in facilitating Bible study and discussion.

SERMON QUESTIONS. These are questions provided for groups based on the previous week's sermon. They follow the current teaching series and are accessible on the Vox website weekly.

Review questions prior to the meeting. Familiarize yourself with the meaning of the question so you can go deeper if the opportunity arises. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

PAST SERMON SERIES. If you loved a sermon series from a year ago or years ago and want to use it for your group, you can! Past sermon series and questions are available on the Vox website.

RIGHT NOW MEDIA. As a CG leader of our church, you are given free access to thousands of video Bible studies and other valuable resources for free! Sign up for free on the Vox website.

BIBLE STUDY. Perhaps you feel unqualified to lead a study right out of the Bible. You're not! Follow the easy-to-use Three-Question Bible Study Method.

THREE-QUESTION BIBLE STUDY METHOD

What does God's Word say? List the facts. Be literal. List the who, what, when, where. Who is speaking? Who is being spoken to? When did it happen? Where is it taking place? Are there repeated words?

What does God's Word mean? Learn the lessons. Be spiritual. Look for a spiritual lesson or principle within the facts. What are the people in the passage doing that we should or should not be doing? Is there a command we should obey? A warning we should heed? An example we should follow?

How can we apply this to our lives? Listen to his voice. Get personal. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you; don't rush. Take your time to prayerfully meditate on what He is saying to you through his Word. Talk with your group and write down ways in which God's Word can be applied directly to your relationships, career, family, friends, circumstances, struggles, or anything else.

PRAYER (10–15 minutes)

Take time teaching a culture of prayer. In other words, leave room for it and talk about its importance. Make sure this is a safe space so people can be vulnerable in sharing. Also, mix it up. Here are some ideas:

- Make prayer the first thing instead of last.
- If someone shares something that you feel should be prayed for immediately, stop everything and pray for that person. Lay hands on them if they feel comfortable.
- Turn on some quiet music during prayer time. (For example, soft piano or acoustic guitar music without words.)
- Split into small sub-groups, or split genders and pray together.
- Select one or two words, based on the study, to focus on through prayer time. (For example, if “love” is the selected word, pray and thank God for his undeserved love for you and for your group to extend God’s love to others in their own lives.)
- Pray through a psalm together.
- Have everyone write down a prayer request or praise and put it in a hat, then everyone draws a paper and prays for the request or praise.

ELEMENTS OF A HEALTHY CG

CONSISTENCY. There is consistency in meeting together. The people in your group can't wait to get together again! Also, reading the Bible and praying are consistently a part of your gatherings.

AUTHENTICITY. From the leader to the attendee, everyone feels free to share about their lives without judgment.

GROWTH. Bible knowledge is turning into life application. Real and evident life change is happening in the lives of the people in your group. CORE Groups are forming and meeting to go deeper.

FRIENDSHIP. Fellowship is happening in and outside of the CG gathering time. People are really getting to know each other and enjoy being around each other.

NEEDS MET. When a crisis happens, group members are there to support, pray for, encourage, bring meals, or help meet the need of the member in crisis.

SERVING TOGETHER. Everyone is serving together in some capacity, whether it's as a group in the community, on a Sunday, or on a mission trip.

INVITING. There is an excitement about welcoming new people to the group, and when new people join, they feel welcomed and included!



HELP! IT'S MY FIRST CG GATHERING

BEFORE GATHERING

- Invite others to join your group using phone calls, texts, emails, or invitation cards. Be creative. Be specific about the group (what to expect).
- Send out a reminder of the meeting date, time, and location the week prior and the day before.
- Test your video to make sure it's working properly.
- Purchase or prepare food and drinks in advance.

DURING GATHERING

- Make sure there are enough seats for everyone.

- Turn on some music. Create a fun and welcoming atmosphere.
- Arrival, Mingling, Snacks (15 minutes)
- Welcome, Group Introductions (5 minutes)
- Ice Breaker Question (15 minutes)
- Share Group Guidelines (10 minutes)
- Suggested Guidelines (feel free to create your own)

Clear Purpose > To grow in relationship with God and each other

Prioritize Group Attendance > Life gets busy. Prioritizing this gathering is vital to our own personal spiritual health and the growth and health of the group.

Safety & Confidentiality > People in this group should feel comfortable and safe to share without judgment. Anything asked to stay confidential should!

Resolve Conflict Biblically > Conflict is bound to happen, and that's OK! When it does, we won't panic, gossip, or let it go and grow. We will resolve it biblically, immediately (Matt. 18:15–17).

Share Roles in OUR Group > Everyone plays an important role. We will share the responsibilities.

Optional: Welcoming Newcomers > If your group has space for new people to join, members are encouraged to invite others!

Communicate well about space and when the cutoff might need to happen.

Optional: Childcare > If kids are a part of the group, it's important to get on the same page about that right away. (Ideas on the next page.)

- Video and Discussion (30 minutes)
- Prayer Requests & Prayer (5 minutes)

AFTER GATHERING

Send an email or text thanking everyone for coming and remind them of the next meeting time.

Follow up on any prayer requests.

CG CHILDCARE IDEAS

Every parent should be concerned for the safety and well-being of their children. These aren't mandates, just ideas. Be open, honest, and sensitive with your group about childcare.

SWITCH. Separate the adults into two groups when you get to the study or discussion part of your gathering. One group does Bible study, discussion, and prayer, while the other half is watching the kids, drinking coffee, and eating dessert in a separate area. After the allotted time, the two adult groups "switch."

ROTATE. In each meeting, two adults watch the kids in another area of the house. This is best done in pairs to provide company for the adults and to provide added protection for the kids. Never rotate out a married couple, but instead send two men or two women so that relationships are built, and so one of the spouses can talk through the study with their spouse later.

HIRE A BABYSITTER. Pool money and hire a quality childcare worker to look after the kids in a separate area.

OTHER IDEAS

- Parents hire their own babysitters.
- Include the children in the gathering in some way.

CG ICE- BREAKERS

- If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?
- If you could talk to anyone in the world, who would it be?
- If you could live in any period of history, when would it be?
- If you could have any question answered, what would it be?
- If you could have any kind of pet, what would you have?
- If you could do your dream job ten years from now, what would it be?
- If you had to be allergic to something, what would it be?
- If you sat down next to Jesus on a bus, what would you talk about?
- If you had one day to live over again, what day would you pick?

- If you were sent to live on a space station for three months and only allowed to bring three personal items with you, what would they be?
- If a theme song played whenever you walked into a room, what would it be?
- If a movie was made about your life, who would play you?
- If you had a time machine, would you go back in time first or to the future first?
- If you could rename yourself, what would you pick?
- If you could bring back a fashion trend, what would it be?

DEVELOPING FUTURE CG LEADERS

One of the best ways Community Group Leaders can “make disciples,” fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20, is by developing future CG Leaders. That sounds like a tall task, but it’s not! Every group has at least one or two people who could lead a group someday. You can help prepare them by following these easy, simple, practical steps:

PRAY (Numbers 11:16–17, Acts 6:1–7). Throughout the Bible, leaders prayed to God to help them identify and develop future leaders.

ENCOURAGE & INVITE. Talk with them and encourage them about the potential you see in them. Personally invite them to join you at one of the CG Leader trainings or a CG Leader event.

GIVE RESPONSIBILITIES. Ask them to lead a discussion in your group. Don’t be critical when they do; instead, encourage, motivate, and affirm. Ask

them to organize a special gathering or service project.

UTILIZE YOUR CG COACH

Ask your CG Coach for advice, ideas, and what to do next.

FAQ'S

Where should my Community Group meet?

Each group can decide if they want to meet in one home, move around to others' homes, in a coffee shop, workplace, park, online, or somewhere else.

When should my Community Group meet?

CG's can meet anytime during the week or weekend. Talk with the people in your group about what day and time work best.

How long does each CG gathering last?

Most groups meet from 60–90 minutes.

How often do CG's meet?

Most groups meet once a week. Some groups meet bi-weekly.

How do I register my new group?

Contact your Campus CG Director for next steps. Their email address is listed on the Vox

website under their campus. Or, you can fill out the “Start a Group” form on the Groups’ page, and they will get back to you.

What should we study first?

If your group is starting around the Fall Campaign (September), we would expect your group to go through Campaign materials first. Otherwise, a great place to start is the current sermon series or a past sermon series. Discussion questions can be found on the Vox website.

How do I fill my Community Group?

Personal invites to friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, or other church members are a great way to fill your group. Community Groups will also be posted on our website for people to join. Once they sign up for your group, you will get their contact info to reach out to them about your group. Occasionally, campuses will host Group Links.

What is a Group Link?

A group link is a time before or after a church service or activity where CG Leaders are available with sign-up sheets specifically for their group so people can walk by, meet the CG Leader, see what the group type is, when they

meet, where they meet, and sign up to join their group.

What if someone asks a question, and I don't know the answer?

Don't panic. It's O.K to tell them you don't know. There is no pressure to always be the smartest one in the room. Tell them you are going to seek out the answer from God's Word this week. It's even O.K. to tell them you are going to reach out to another CG Leader, your coach, or even your Campus CG Director or CP for help.

What do I do when conflict happens?

Follow Matthew 18:15–17 with grace, love, and ultimately forgiveness. If the conflict isn't resolved, lean into your support system (CG Director, coach) if you aren't sure what to do/say next.

How big is too big of a group?

Groups vary in size, but if people are finding it hard to share and participate, it might be time to get creative. Here are some ideas:

Sub-group: Stay together during fellowship and worship but split up into smaller groups during Bible study/discussion.

Divide: Communicate openly with the group about the size of your group, and, if necessary, divide it into two different permanent groups. Identify the new leader right away.

How long should a CG stay together?

As long as you want! CG's should commit to meet and remain in community with each other for at least one series (6–8 weeks). If you want to join or start a new group, it's ok. Talk about it with grace and love.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Go home and pray about leading or hosting a Community Group.

If you feel led by the Holy Spirit to lead a Community Group, contact your Campus CG Director for the next steps. Their email address is listed on the Vox website. Or fill out the “Start a Group” form on the Groups’ page.

Familiarize yourself with the Vox website; sermon questions, sermon series, CG Leader resources, RightNow Media, and Pipeline videos.

Start at #1 of the CG Leader Expectations on page 17 and start making decisions to accomplish the expectations.

Participate in trainings when they are offered at your campus.

Participate in Community Group events and Group Links when offered.

25 TIPS FOR LEADING A CG

1. Before people show up, turn on every light on the floor where your group meets, especially leading to the bathroom.
2. Use name tags, especially for your first meeting.
3. Greet people at the door with a smile. 😊
4. Be friendly and be yourself.
5. Snacks! Always! Be creative. Have fun with it.
6. End your group on time or early.
7. Don't try to be perfect. Don't be too formal.
8. Do things together outside of gathering times. Be creative.
9. Start serving together in a small way, right away.
10. Give out roles, not rolls; this creates ownership and increases attendance.
11. If people work late, let them know they can bring their dinner with them.
12. Group discussion isn't teaching time only.
13. It helps for people to read the discussion questions, not just hear them.

14. When a question is asked, expect silence. Don't answer your own questions first. Let silence continue.
15. Always open God's Word! Always PRAY together!
16. Don't always give the final answer.
17. Love to laugh!
18. Love to sing! Let someone who does lead worship.
19. If you have someone with potential, let them try leading.
20. Pray for your group members regularly.
21. Over communicate.
22. Change up the gathering location occasionally.
23. Meet three times and then serve together the fourth time.
24. Connect with your group members on social media. Share pictures and send messages.
25. Treat everyone as if they were Jesus!

VOX CHURCH CORE BELIEFS

THE SCRIPTURES

The Bible is God's Word to all people. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because it was inspired by God, the Bible is truth without any mixture of error and is completely relevant to our daily lives. (*Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Psalms 119:11; 119:89; 119:105; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 22:29; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 3:16*)

THE GODHEAD

God has existed in relationship with himself for all eternity. He is a triune God, one God revealing himself in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Although each member of the Trinity serves different functions, they each possess equal power and authority. (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 1:35; John 5:2-23; 14:10; 14:16; Romans 8:9-11; 1*

*Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:8–10;
James 2:19)*

GOD THE FATHER

God is great: He is all powerful, all knowing, ever present, unchanging, completely worthy of our trust, and he is holy. It is in him that we live, move, and exist. God is good: he is our Father. He is loving, compassionate, and faithful to his people and his promises. (*Exodus 3:14; Numbers 23:19; Leviticus 11:44–45; 19:2; Psalm 11:4–6; Malachi 3:6; John 3:16; 4:24; 5:26; 14:1; Acts 17:28; Romans 3:3–4*)

GOD THE SON

Jesus Christ is completely human, but at the same time completely God. He is the only plan for bringing people who are enemies of God back into a right relationship with God. He lived a perfect life so that he could be a substitution for us in satisfying God's demands for perfection. He defeated death in his resurrection so that we could have life. (*Isaiah 7:14; 7:53; Matthew 1:18–23; 3:17; 8:29; 14:33; 16:16; 28:5–6; Luke 22:70; 24:46–47; John 1:1; 1:14; 10:30; 11:25–27; 17:1–5; Acts 1:9; 2:22–24; 7:55–56; Romans 1:3–4; 3:23–26; 8:1–3; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 5:19–21; Galatians 4:4–5; Philippians 2:5–11; Colossians 1:15; 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5–6; 3:16*)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is fully God, the third person of the Trinity, and assures us of our relationship with Christ. He guides believers into all truth and exalts Christ. He convicts people of their sin, God's righteousness, and the coming judgment. He comforts us, gives us spiritual gifts, and makes us more like Christ. (*Psalms 51:11; 139:7; Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 61:1–3; Joel 2:28–32; Mark 1:10; Luke 1:35; 4:1; 11:13; 12:12; John 15:26; 16:7–14; Acts 1:8; 2:1–4; 13:2; Romans 8:9–11; 14–16; 26–27; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:13–14; 2 Peter 1:21; Revelation 22:17*)

HEAVEN AND HELL

Heaven and Hell are places of eternal existence. Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with him is eternal life. (*John 3:16; 3:36; Romans 6:23; 1 John 2:25; 5:11–13; Revelation 20:15*)

HUMAN BEINGS

Man is made in the image of God and is the supreme object of his creation. Man was created to have fellowship with God but became separated in that relationship through sinful disobedience. As a result, man cannot attain a right relationship with God through his own effort. Every human personality is uniquely created, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect and Christian love. (*Genesis 1:26–30; 2:7; 2:18–22; 2:3; Psalms 8:3–6; 32:1–5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5*)

Jeremiah 17:5; Acts 17:26–31; Romans 1:19–32; 3:10–18; 3:23; 5:6; 6:6; 7:14–25; 1 Corinthians 1:21–31; 15:19; 15:21–22; Ephesians 2; Colossians 1:21–22; 3:9–11)

SALVATION

The blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the only way of salvation through the forgiveness of sin. Salvation occurs when people place their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as sufficient payment for their sin. Salvation is a gift from God, and it cannot be earned through our own efforts. The victorious work of Jesus on the cross provides freedom from sin, lies, sickness, torment, and all the power of the devil. (*Isaiah 1:18; 53:5–6; 55:7; Matthew 1:21; 27:22–28; Luke 1:68–69; 2:28–32; John 1:12; 3:16; 36; 5:24; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 16:30–31; Romans 1:16–18; 3:23–25; 5:8–10; 6; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17–20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; Ephesians 2:8–10; Philippians 2:12–13; Hebrews 9:24–28; Revelation 3:20)*

THE CHURCH

The global church is a living organism made up of all born again followers of Christ from every age, race, and nation. The local church is a regional community of baptized believers unified through faith in Christ. It is committed to the teachings of Christ, to obeying all his commands, and seeks to bring the gospel to the world. The church works together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ.

(Matthew 16:18–19; 18:15–20; Acts 2:41–47; 5:11–14; 13:1–3; 14:23; 16:5; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 7:17; 9:13–14; 12; Ephesians 1:22–23; 2:19–22; 3:10–12; 5:22–32; Colossians 1:18; 3:15; 1 Timothy 4:14; 1 Peter 5:1–4; Revelation 21:2–3)

VOX CHURCH DISTINCTIVES

The Vox Distinctives are the behavioral values of our church. They put language around how we act in light of our vision and core values.

1. WE ARE MARRIED TO THE MESSAGE

This distinctive means that Jesus is more important than my preferences. We want to be people who are the first to serve and the first to sacrifice because Christ has already extravagantly served us. Leaders at Vox are not those with nice resumes or elite social status but rather those who are willing to get their hands dirty, roll up their sleeves, and give their lives. No job is beneath us. No truth should be taught and not practiced by our leaders. We are married to this message.

2. WE ARE CONTENDERS

We live in the tension of the now and not yet. When it comes to miracles, we expect them to happen, and we pray for them to come. If things don't go the way we expect, we trust the good plan of God above what we can see. Our attitude towards prayer is not passive.

We believe God has given us the weapon of prayer to see his goodness manifest in our time.

3. WE ARE PIONEERS

Vox Church is a risk-taking church. We always seek to move with wisdom and good counsel, but we also seek to live on the cutting edge of what God is doing. We are not a play-it-safe community. Time is short, and people need Jesus.

4. WE ARE STUDENTS OF CULTURE

To make a difference, we must know the language that culture speaks. Vox Church seeks to be relevant in our presentation of God's timeless truth, presenting this truth in a way that grabs the attention of a spiritually hungry world.

5. OUR RELATIONSHIPS BUILD MUSCLE

Rather than squirming away from confrontation and difficult conversations, we humbly lean into them, knowing that honesty, humility, and courage create relationships that last a lifetime. We deal with conflict quickly, and we don't gossip. We never give up on one another.

6. WE THRIVE IN CULTURAL CENTERS

We go where people gather. As the world moves into the city, we strategically focus on where the impact

can be greatest. We are committed to being a church that represents the diversity of our cities.

7. WE ENJOY THE RIDE

We take God and his mission very seriously, but we try not to take ourselves too seriously. As God works miracles in our church, we pause to celebrate along the way, and we seek to create healthy life rhythms to sustain wholehearted devotion to Christ.





**COMMUNITY
GROUPS**

VOXCHURCH.ORG/COMMUNITY-GROUPS