

DECIDE

TO

THRIVE

**SIX CHOICES FOR LIFE CHANGE
THAT *REALLY* WORK**

**SMALL GROUP
LEADER HANDBOOK**

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Dear Small Group Leader,

Thank you for *Reaching People and Building Lives* through your *Decide to Thrive* small group! Christ will transform many lives because of your willingness and commitment to serve people. Our team and I have been praying for you and will continue to do so throughout your group. We're excited to see you grow and fulfill the purpose God has set for you. I pray that each member of your group will experience the power of God's Word in every session.

Remember, God is with you on this journey! Our team is also here to support, equip, and encourage you, too. I'm eager to witness how God touches not only your group's lives but yours as well. I am truly grateful for you and look forward to hearing the stories of what God accomplishes in your small group.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." — Matthew 28:19-20

Be blessed,
Pastor Steve Robinson

Leader Instructions

To get the most out of *Decide to Thrive*, it's important that your group engages in all three components: **the *Decide to Thrive* book, Small Groups, and Weekend Services.**

The *Decide to Thrive* Book

This book, written by Pastor Steve Robinson, consists of six biblical principles that are crucial to living a life that thrives! It's important for each person in your group to engage in the book. Books can be purchased at any Church of the King location, or online at Amazon.com.

Small Groups

Each small group session provides an opportunity to grow closer to God and others. It's important that group members attend each session if possible. This small group curriculum is six sessions total. See detailed info for each session on the next page.

Weekend Services

The weekly sermon aligns with the book and small group topic. Weekend services also provide a time for your group to experience God's presence through a time of worship. Encourage your group to sit together during weekend services.

Outline of Each Small Group Session

Each week will begin with a video lesson, followed by a discussion. **A free Small Group Guide is available with space to take notes during weekend services, the small group video lesson, and the discussion.** The guides are not mandatory for small group, but are available if desired. **These free guides are available at each Church of the King location.**

Questions? Email smallgroups@churchoftheking.com.

HOW TO LEAD A GROUP:

To register your group and to learn more about Small Group Leader Training, visit DecidetoThrive.com.

Each small group consists of the following:

STEP 1: Connect

Take the first 5-10 minutes to connect with your group. Give your group an opportunity to build relationships with each other and see how their week went.

STEP 2: Video Lesson

Play Pastor Steve's video lesson for the week. Videos can be found at YouTube.com/ChurchoftheKing or DecidetoThrive.com. Participants can follow along with the video teaching and take notes utilizing the *Decide to Thrive Small Group Guide* or their own personal notebook.

STEP 3: Discussion

The *Decide to Thrive* book includes reflection questions at the end of chapters 2-7 to use for your group discussion. These are also included in the *Decide to Thrive Small Group Guide*.

STEP 4: Act

The book includes a weekly action step. Have your group write down what action step they want to take for the week.

STEP 5: Pray

Pray at the end of each group. There is space in the *Small Group Guide* for your group to write down prayer requests. It might be a good idea to have a different person in the group pray each week.

***Decide to Thrive* Reading Plan**

The *Decide to Thrive* reading plan is designed to align with our weekend messages and Small group schedule. Small group participants are welcome to read the book at their own pace. But if you'd like to stay synced with the group discussions and we can messages, following the below reading plan is a great way to do that.

SESSION ONE: THE PRIORITY DECISION

READ CHAPTERS 1 & 2

SESSION TWO: THE RELATIONSHIP DECISION

READ CHAPTER 3

SESSION THREE: THE PURPOSE DECISION

READ CHAPTER 4

SESSION FOUR: THE GROWTH DECISION

READ CHAPTER 5

SESSION FIVE: THE INFLUENCE DECISION

READ CHAPTER 6

SESSION SIX: THE GENEROSITY DECISION

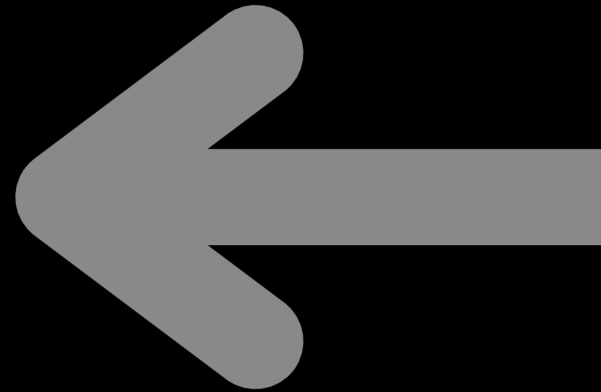
READ CHAPTERS 7 & 8

Leader Training & Coaching

Leader Training

If you are new to leading a group or are a current leader and would like a “refresher,” be sure to attend one of the scheduled leader trainings. Childcare is available.

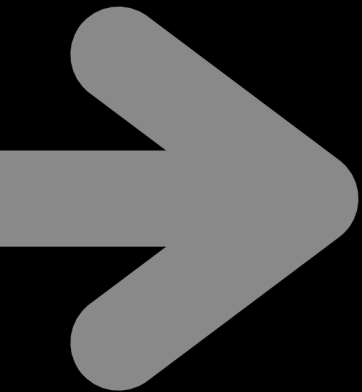
Visit DecidetoThrive.com for leader training dates.



Weekly Coaching Videos

We have created brief coaching videos to help you prepare for your small group each week. Watch the video for the week before you meet with your group.

Visit Youtube.com/ChurchoftheKing/playlists to watch the weekly coaching videos.



Small Group Guidelines

It is a good idea to begin the small group with clear guidelines and expectations. These guidelines will help each person understand the group's goals and lay a foundation for a healthy group experience. Please take a few moments during the first meeting to review the following guidelines with your group.

COMMUNITY: We grow spiritually and relationally in the context of a small group community.

ATTENDANCE: We commit to attend the group each week.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: We create a safe, non-judgmental place for people to come and experience the love of God.

CONFIDENTIALITY: We keep everything shared in the group—in the group.

INVITE OTHERS: We invite friends and new people to the group and warmly welcome newcomers.

USE WISDOM: We commit to using wisdom by not serving or consuming alcohol during small group meetings to avoid causing a brother or sister to stumble spiritually. Be sensitive to others' spiritual conscience. (See 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Romans 14:19-21.)

SHARED OWNERSHIP: We create opportunities for each attendee to share a small team role or responsibility over the course of the study.

Leader Tips

- You may want to provide name tags for the first meeting.
- Open your group with a brief, simple prayer. Invite God to open your spiritual eyes and to give you insight as you study. You can pray for specific requests at the end of the meeting, or stop momentarily to pray if a particular situation comes up during your discussion.
- After the opening prayer, review the Small Group Guidelines in the Appendices with the entire group. To lay the foundation for a healthy small group experience, it's a good idea to begin the first session with clear guidelines and expectations.
- Next, get contact information from every person in the group. Start a group message if you'd like so that everyone can connect throughout the week.
- Take attendance on the COTK app. Open the app and select **profile - my groups - click the group - then submit your attendance.**
- Plan to rotate who leads the group discussion after the first week. Studies have shown that healthy groups share the load. This helps to develop every member's ability to lead a few people in a safe environment. Jesus consistently gave others the opportunity to serve alongside Him. (See Mark 6:30-44.)
- Study the rest of the Appendices for additional information about leading the group.

Leader Tips (continued)

- **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.** God knows everything about you and called you to lead. Even great leaders like Moses and Timothy felt unprepared. But remember God's promise: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).
- **PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP MEMBERS BY NAME.** Before each session, pray individually for each member, considering their needs. Review the prayer list weekly, and be open to God's direction on who to encourage or challenge.
- **PREPARE FOR YOUR MEETING AHEAD OF TIME.** Review the session materials and write down your responses. Go over the "Outline for Each Session" to stay clear on each section's purpose.
- **DO NOT TRY TO DO IT ALONE.** Pray for God's help in building a strong team. Involve others by asking them to help, and consider finding a co-leader for a richer experience.
- **PROVIDE TRANSITIONS BETWEEN QUESTIONS.** Read the transition paragraphs and questions aloud, inviting volunteers to read passages. Encourage participation and thank those who contribute.
- **WHEN YOU ASK A QUESTION, BE PATIENT.** Give time for responses, allowing moments of silence. Affirm responses with simple encouragement and invite others to share, especially newcomers.
- **ALLOW YOUR EMERGING LEADER(S) TO FACILITATE.** Encourage emerging leaders to lead sessions, giving them support and advance notice. This helps them grow in their gifts and builds their confidence.
- **JUST BE YOU.** Lead in a way that reflects your unique personality and gifts. Be open about mistakes and be yourself—your group will appreciate your authenticity.
- **BREAK UP INTO SMALLER GROUPS TO FACILITATE CONNECTION.** If the group is large, divide into smaller circles for discussion and prayer. This helps quieter members engage and creates a more personal environment for sharing.

Prayer of Salvation

The following prayer is an example of a prayer of salvation. If you or someone you know has decided to follow Christ, use this prayer as a guide to accepting God's forgiveness and committing to follow Him.

Dear Jesus, I come to You today, a sinner, in need of a Savior. Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross for me, for shedding Your blood for me. Jesus, I let go of my past, I turn to You, I turn to the cross. Come into my life. Forgive me. Wash me. Cleanse me with Your blood. Jesus, I take my life, and I put it into Your hands. From this day forward, I belong to You. Amen.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who should I invite?

- Invite your coworkers, parents from your child's sports or school events, your running club, people you know from church or the gym, post on social media, etc.

Where can I lead the group?

- Meet at your house or ask other group members if they will host the group at their home.
- Hold your group at church, coffee shops, your workplace, etc.
- Lead a group online using Zoom, Hangouts, Skype, or other apps.

What if my schedule is inconsistent?

- Plan your meeting dates and times in advance to share with your invitees.
- Ask someone to co-lead with you. Your co-leader can lead the meetings you can't attend.
- Lead an online group. You can keep your meeting times even when you travel.

Are there childcare options?

- Check with your Church of the King location to determine if free childcare is offered there.
- Email smallgroups@churchoftheking.com small groups childcare reimbursement policy at ChurchoftheKing.com/smallgroups.

How can I encourage others to lead a group?

- Identify people in your group who are ready to lead their own group. Encourage them to step out for the six-week *Decide to Thrive* study.
- Ask emerging leaders to co-lead together.
- Turn your group over to the emerging leader, and start another group during the series.
- Remind small group members of the opportunity to reach family, friends, and co-workers.
- Emerging leaders can still participate with your group while leading their own group.