## *Who leads a small group?*

Someone who wants to learn more about the Bible

Someone who wants to bring others together to learn together

Someone who wants to serve Christ and use their gifts

Sounds like you!!

A Small Group leader provides a model for growing in Christ and who is also on the journey toward wholeness and new identity! Someone who has a heart for others!

How do they lead?

Each leader has their own style, but we can recognize the important values to be communicated and lifted up regardless of style.

***Small Groups help people grow.***

It is imperative that there is an environment for growth: but what is needed to create an environment for growth?

**TRUST:**

Why is trust so important?

How to create an environment of trust:

Trust in the **LEADER**

Group members need to know why they should trust you

You must always do what you say you will do

You must always uphold the rules: every time

Trust in the **MISSION**

Communicate the purpose

Show faith in the process

Trust in the **CLASSROOM**

To create a safe place, there must be rules

Trust in the **CLASSMATES**

Code of conduct: repeat code as needed and uphold it

Trust that you will not let one or two members take all the attention and time

What is the plan if there is a member who takes all the attention?

## *Building an environment of Trust Continued:*

Building trust through **STRUCTURE**

Structure provides a clear path; a destination, a focus and goal

Members want to know if the group experience will be worth the embarrassment, transparency (vulnerability), and *TRUST*

**How do we develop trust?**

Group members need to know why they need to have trust to grow

Group members want leadership: they do not want to be turned loose without structure and/or purpose (SAFETY)

Once trust is established, members will respond to the Leader and to their Classmates (if you do as you say you will do)

Healthy structure includes:

**LIMITS**

Limits set **BOUNDARIES** for safety

Limits define **PERIMETERS** for behavior

Establish correct and incorrect **BEHAVIOR** in the group

Make sure **UNWANTED** behavior is communicated clearly, and deal gently, but firmly with anyone who violates safety

**PERMISSIONS**

Permissions **HONOR** everyone in the group

Permission should not be **ASSUMED**

Make sure permission is asked **BEFORE** touching or praying for anyone in the group

*Clearing away hindrances*

**STIGMA**

What is **STIGMA?**

How does **stigma** affect your members?

Stigma about participation in a group
Stigma about transparency
Stigma about Church
Stigma about their sin

How does **stigma** affect your group?

What do people bring to the table?
How do people react based on their perceptions?

How does **stigma** affect your leadership?

What do people expect from you?
How do they respond based on their perceptions?

**BAD HABITS**

You will probably have wounded people in your group

People who have been wounded for a long time have developed a "limp"

Those who "limp" for a long time develop a habit of limping

Bad habits surround an incorrect identity

Must encourage a new identity and new habits without re-wounding the group member

**MISINFORMATION**

Sometimes people have the wrong information: this hinders their growth and healing

Correct information leads to a new identity/healing and eliminates or reduces stigma