



Propel Group Leaders Training

THE RUNDOWN OF PROPEL GROUPS

At Propel Groups you can expect to have 4 things. We have made them easy for you to remember using the word “ESPN.”

E- Encouragement

S- Scripture

P- Prayer

N- Next Steps

Propel Group Basics:

- 1.) *We operate in semesters-* {Spring (12 weeks), Summer (8 weeks), Fall (12 weeks)}
- 2.) *We host free market groups-* If you are passionate about something, you can host a Propel Group on it. Your life is your group
- 3.) *We meet regularly-* Whether that is once a week or once a month. We get together and grow
- 4.) *We track attendance on Planning Center Groups-* This is our online database.
- 5.) *We are not doing groups alone-* We invite and empower others to take ownership of our group so that we can find freedom
- 6.) *We aren't afraid to ask for help-* Propel Group coaches are there for a reason.
- 7.) *We are the pastors of the people in our group-* We take spiritual responsibility to take care of those who are a part of our group.

INTRODUCTION

We are so excited that you have chosen to step out in faith by hosting a Propel Group. We believe in you; we are praying for you; and we are here to support you in any way that we can! It is our intent and prayer that this course will equip you to lead and disciple others in a way that will both grow God's church and challenge each person to take their next right steps toward Jesus.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. – Matthew 28:19-20

These are the words that Christ spoke to His disciples right before He ascended back into heaven: so they must have been pretty important! As a Propel Group Host, you, along with the help of Jesus, will be teaching “these new disciples” what He was talking about in the scripture above. So BE ENCOURAGED because He is with you!

Purpose of Propel Groups

Propel Groups exist to help people find freedom.

The resource guide is designed to help you better understand the 3 ways that we help people find freedom inside of groups. Those three things are: **1) Connection, 2) Protection, and 3) Growth.**

Each section contains a ROAD MAP that will help you navigate the different elements of each section.

We have designed this guide to be as practical as possible while equipping you to be successful in hosting a Propel Group. Remember, just as Jesus said: you are not alone. You have an entire staff that loves you and desires for you to have a successful ministry!

CONNECTION

I am a companion of all those who fear You, And of those who keep Your precepts. – Psalm 119:62, NASB

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, the breaking of bread and to prayer. – Acts 2:42, NASB

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. – Proverbs 27:17, NIV

In John 15, Jesus teaches that in order to bear fruit, you first have to be connected to Him. Propel Groups are meant to provide a great environment in which to be propelled towards Christ. We do this by lovingly spurring one another along in the journey. But in order to do that, the team must be connected.

The next few steps will enable you to gather, host, and manage the ones that God has entrusted to you.

- Recruit Members
- Host Your First Meeting
- Manage Your Team's Formation

Recruiting Members

Prayer

It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them . . . – Luke 6:12-13

Even Jesus, God's Son, felt the need to go to The Father in prayer over the selection of his group. Only God has control over the thousands of intangibles that we know not of, and asking him to give us His guidance prior to beginning this journey is a great way to seek his wisdom as well as to remember why you are doing this in the first place!

Pray that God will send you the members that he desires you to have.

- Ensure that your Group is listed on the Propel website. Email tnewman@propel.church with any questions.
- Invite those that are in your circle of influence. Many people that have never been to church or who have not been to church in a long time will shy away from a church initiation, but a small gathering in the home or coffee shop is a different thing altogether. Reach out to others whom you know.
- Ask those who want to commit if they have any friends or family that they would like to bring. Grab some contact information to connect with them.
- Offer to help them sign up on the church's website www.propel.church. The fewer steps they have to do, the more likely they are to follow through.

Host Your First Meeting

At the launch of your Propel Group, HOST your first meeting while following the recommendations listed in the participant's guide.

. . . yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. – 1 Corinthians 9:22, TLB

Your first meeting can sometimes cause anxiety. Just know that it is not up to you to fix or save anyone. You are only there to provide connection and protection in community. Charles Spurgeon once said that all one needs to do is let loose the Gospel and get out of the way. Notice in our key verse that Jesus is the one who saves. So you are off the hook!

These are recommended steps to follow until you find your own natural flow and rhythm. Feel free to adjust this list as needed!

- 15 days prior to launch, ensure your Group is on the website.
 - 3 days prior to launch, contact everyone welcoming them to the Group and include the when and where you will be meeting!
- Be sure to request a Propel Group Yard Sign to clearly indicate your meeting location.
- Test any audio and visual equipment that may be needed for the Group meeting, a day before your meeting.
- Try “Hello My Name Is:_____” tag for your meetings to become better acquainted.
- Prepare refreshments area with all items needed.
- Open in prayer.
- State your name and one fun fact about yourself; go around the room allowing others to do the same!

- State the Propel Group Purpose and your Group's focus (what you will be studying or what activity you will be doing).
- State the expected schedule for the meeting times.
- Set the expectations for the Group and home.
- Pass around a contact sign up sheet.
- Discuss Childcare
- Discuss the plan for food and refreshments
- Conduct an icebreaker activity (Appendix A).

PROTECTION

Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. – 1 Peter 4:8, NLT

And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common. – Acts 2:44, NASB

When we position ourselves in such a way that we are able to receive love from Christ, we are able to love others in spite of their hurts, habits, and hang-ups. This enables us to love past ourselves, and from that comes protection – protection of ourselves and of others. When we are able to love as Christ loves, we create a safe place around us; and this is our hope with Propel Groups.

The next few steps in the curriculum will equip you to SPEAK LIFE into others in a loving, caring, and non-threatening way.

- Group Covenant
- Speaking Life
- Covering in Prayer

Speaking Life

Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. – Jude 1:24, NLT

Pray over each of those whom Jesus has entrusted to your care while reviewing each step. Pray that He will reveal the needs of your Group.

ACCOUNTABILITY – **Ask** tough questions; help them keep commitments.

AFFIRMATION – **Offer** words of encouragement and support; affirm their strengths.

ASSESSMENT – **Evaluate** their condition objectively; help them gain perspective.

ACCEPTANCE – **Provide** unconditional love and grace to them even when they fail.

ADVICE – **Speak** words of wise counsel and give them options for their decisions.

ADMONITION – **Offer** words of caution and warning so they can avoid pitfalls.

ASSETS – **Give** them tangible gifts and resources: a book, a CD, or a personal contact.

APPLICATION – **Direct** them to discover how they can practice what they have learned.

GROWTH

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. – Ephesians 4:11-12

He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. – Ephesians 4:16

One of the things we believe and live by is: “We embrace change so that more people can experience Jesus.” As we enjoy biblical community together, we propel one another toward Christ.

Propel Groups are a place where there are like-minded people who believe in you. This is how leaders are developed. We want to see you grow, flourish, and become all that God has called you to be. We are excited that you are stepping out in faith, propelling a group of individuals toward Christ so that they can have abundant life!

These next steps will equip you to help others find and follow Jesus through next right steps.

- Share the Gospel
- Facilitate a Group Conversation
- Enable Others to Discover Their Next Right Steps
- Debrief a Serving Event
- Develop a Host

Share the Gospel

Evangelism is a process leading to an event. A missionary named James Engel developed a visual way to see the typical journey one takes in moving towards Christ. If you understand this concept, then you can effectively tailor your approach while being sensitive to where that person stands spiritually on the scale.

The process of salvation is somewhat mysterious (see John 3:8) and does not always follow the order presented here, but there is definitely a process (John 3:3). However, Engel's scale is true for most people. When this is understood, the benefit of this scale is immense.

- It explains why some decisions for Christ bear no fruit. The person was led to make a decision before he or she was really ready.
- It helps us understand why some people are more receptive to the Gospel than others.
- It enhances our appreciation for the need to stair-step people to Christ.
- It also aids our ability to value repeated efforts to help people take incremental steps to Christ as opposed to turning people off by treating witnessing to others as a sales job.ⁱⁱⁱ



Share Your Story

God chose to communicate with humanity through authentic relationship; He came and did life with us. Now we are the Body of Christ doing life with others who are seeking God. People respond well to authenticity. What better way to share the Gospel than with your personal story?

It goes something like this:

- What you were like before Jesus
 - Your salvation experience
 - What you are like now
- The Holy Spirit's role in salvation cannot be understated. It is important to cooperate with the Holy Spirit through prayer, being sensitive to what He is doing in the lives of others. Utilize the prayer guide for the lost found on page 8 so that you are plugging into the Holy Spirit, paving the way for their salvation.

Facilitate a Group Conversation

30 / 70 Rule

While many new leaders experience anxiety thinking that they have to provide all of the content, we want to enable you by re-steering this false expectation and provide you with a tool for communication. It is called the 30 / 70 rule. Aim to communicate about 30 percent of the time while allowing or drawing out about 70 percent of the conversation from the participants. Here are a few other tips for communication:

- Invite people to Co Host with you
- Draw out participation from the quiet ones
- Pay attention to body language
- Use open-ended questions
- Avoid hot topics

Counting Our Wins

Performance Objective

The first meeting after a serving event and while using the participant's guide, COUNT your wins using the name/story format.

⁷ And he called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two, giving them authority to cast out evil spirits. ⁸ He told them to take nothing for their journey except a walking stick—no food, no traveler's bag, no money. ⁹ He allowed them to wear sandals but not to take a change of clothes. ¹⁰ "Wherever you go," he said, "stay in the same house until you leave town. ¹¹ But if any place refuses to welcome you or listen to you, shake its dust from your feet as you leave to show that you have abandoned those people to their fate." ¹² So the disciples went out, telling

everyone they met to repent of their sins and turn to God.¹³ And they cast out many demons and healed many sick people, anointing them with olive oil.

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus from their ministry tour and told him all they had

done and taught.³¹ Then Jesus said, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest a while." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that

Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat.³² So they left by boat for a quiet place, where they could be alone. – Mark 6:7-13, 30-32

At Propel Church, our vision is purely relational; and, because of that, we want to create a culture that is about names and stories. Having propel groups count the wins after a serving event (including a Dream Team serving function) is a great way to do this! Jesus had His disciples do just this when they returned from doing many wonderful things. He wanted to know about their stories!

- Invite people to celebrate what God is doing in their life and in Propel Church.
- Ask those that were if they could share a name and a story.
 - Give praise to God for the wins experienced! Sometimes this sharing experience can lead into rich dialogue. Allow for that; do not be afraid to let the Holy Spirit to lead your meeting in a different direction.

Develop a Host

Performance Objective

With an emergent leader, DEVELOP a host in accordance with the participant's guide.

Rick Warren, while at a pastor's conference, once stated that healthy churches birth new churches. We believe that this also applies to healthy Groups!

While birthing a new Group must be done through prayer and the Holy Spirit's leading, watch for new host. These are the people that are first to step up to the plate, are actively taking part in group discussion, and exhibit a genuine desire for ministry. These are also the ones that you will find meeting the criteria for the discipleship stage of the young adult or parent.

Follow these next steps for birthing a new Group:

- Select what type of Group your new host would like to do.
- Communicate to the Group that the individual would like to birth his or her own Group and explain that a transition of leadership for a short season is necessary in equipping him or her for Group ministry.
- Slowly transition your leadership of the team to your host while assuming more of a coaching role.
- Contact Propel Groups at nnewman@propel.church and request a site visit for developing a custom evangelism plan based on the Group's strengths.
- Using the evangelism plan, ADD more members with the goal of birthing a new Group!
- Celebrate: this is an exciting time for your Group that should be celebrated!