



Small Group Leaders Meeting

Purpose of an Anchorsaway of class:

1. To provide a place that is safe, honest and open to every student who comes.
2. To encourage students to make their faith real and their own.
3. To prepare students to give an answer for the reason they believe and the hope they have in Jesus.
4. To provide students with a variety of learning experiences from Christians within the community that will help to prepare them for their post high school experiences.
5. To meet others their age and learn from their experiences.
6. To interact with others of the Christian faith and those who are not.
7. To communicate love and patience to both.
8. To mature and increase in faith of Jesus Christ.

A typical night:

1. Sign in
2. Music
3. Testimony
4. Answer questions from the Question Box
5. Review previous lesson
6. Teaching lesson by teacher/guest speaker
7. Questions
8. Small groups and prayer

What class subjects are best suited to students in your area? (see lesson topics on next page)

Core Classes: (Must be taught as part of curriculum.)	Anchor Points: Biblical Truths from each Lesson
1. What Is The Christian Worldview?	The Christian worldview is the way God views the world.
2. What Are The Five Major Worldviews?	Everyone has a worldview.
3. Who Is God?	God is who He says He is.
4. Is The Bible Reliable?	The Bible is reliable.
5. Was Jesus Christ Resurrected? Why Does It Matter?	Jesus died and rose again!
6. Is Jesus Christ God? What Is The Trinity?	Jesus is God.
7. What Is A Christian? Am I One?	The Christian believes in Christ and follows Him.
8. Did Life Just Happen Or Were We Created?	God created.
Elective Classes: (Choose what works for your own class)	Anchor Points: Biblical Truths from each Lesson
9. Who Is The god Of Islam?	The god of Islam is not the God of the Bible.
10. Covenant: What Is The Big Picture Of God's Redemption Of Man?	God keeps His covenant promise.
11. Who Is Satan And How Does He Work?	Satan is real and active in the world.
12. What Is A Cult?	Mormonism is a cult.
13. Why Don't The Jews Believe In Jesus?	Christianity is Jewish
14. How Does God View The Homosexual?	God hates the sin but loves the sinner.
15. What Are The Moral Implications Of Bioethics?	God is God, not man.
16. What Is The Christian Role In Cultural Reconciliation?	Love your neighbor as yourself.
17. What Are The Biblical Principles To Wise Financial Planning?	All money and possessions belong to God.
18. How Can I Become A Leader Who Influences Culture For Christ?	Christian leaders are great followers of Christ.
19. Why Does God Allow suffering?	In the midst of suffering, I AM.
20. How Do I Make Good Life Choices?	All human life is sacred to God.
21. What Are The Keys To Building Healthy Relationships?	Healthy relationships have God in the center.

Responsibilities of an adult leader:

1. Have a servant's heart. (See more information about being a servant leader at the end of this handout).
2. This ministry is solely about allowing God to use us to accomplish His purpose in the life of each and every student.
3. Be willing to share your gifts.
4. Be ready to prepare and to spend necessary time for students who need encouragement, a listening ear and love.
5. Pray for each student, the teacher(s), class details and yourself.
6. You are expected to come to every class.
7. If possible, come 15 minutes early to pray and to greet students. Your ministry starts when you get here, not just when your small group meets.
8. After small group meeting, clean and straighten up your meeting area.
9. PLEASE keep up to date on reporting names and contact information of your students. Email them to the class administrator.

Weekly responsibilities of an adult leader:

1. Pray for all of your students.
2. If one of your students was unable to attend a class, call/text to check on him/her. Let him/her know that the class missed him/her.
3. Email, text or call all of your students with a word of encouragement. Look over the questions for the next week's lesson, pick one or two, share them with the students and have them be thinking about them during the week.

Building an effective small group:

1. Small groups need to consist of a mix of male/female, schools, churches, and athletic teams, etc. The teaching leader/facilitator can split these groups by color-coding their name tags (a colored dot or mark on the back so the students are not aware and can not switch them around) or by numbering the nametags or by having the students count off by what ever number of small groups you have planned for your large group. If you have planned for eight small groups then you would count off 1 thru 8. Make sure that the small group leaders check each students name tag to make sure that they are in the right group.
2. If a student brings a guest that does not feel comfortable to go to a different group, then put the two students together. If someone, after a few weeks, does not fit into a group, then the small group leader can switch them out into another group. The idea behind all of this is to have a situation where the students are going to be around people who are different from those with whom they traditionally spend time.
3. Introduce yourself and tell the students a little bit about your testimony.

4. Tell your students the first meeting that you expect them:
 - a. To be honest in what they say. If they cannot be honest, then ask them not to speak. You are trying to get away from the students "playing Christian".
 - b. Come to listen more than to speak. What is said is confidential and stays in the group. Tell students that this is a group and everyone needs to participate for it to work well.
 - c. Plan to put this class as a top priority. Being committed to coming each week will draw the group closer and will result in authentic spiritual growth.
 - d. When you disagree with a person, show respect and then respond as to why you do not agree with the idea presented without attacking the student's character.
 - e. Take time to get to know everyone in the group
5. Build a safe environment by being a good listener, respectful and open for questions from your group. This is a time when your students will be formulating who they are, what they believe and what value system they are going to follow.
6. Allow a certain amount of freedom but do not allow your group to turn into a non-directed discussion. Follow your small group leader outline for each week's lesson.
7. How do you keep a student from talking too much? Set expectations for first night for how much and how long a student can share. You expect to hear from all students because the more each person shares, the stronger the group becomes.
8. Small groups are not therapy sessions. **Any talk at any time of suicide or abuse must be reported to the Teaching Leader or Facilitator.**
9. Leave plenty of time to do prayer requests and have the students write these down in their Anchorsaway Worldview Handbooks. Refer to this when you connect with them during the week.
10. Plan at least three get-togethers during the semester. The first one should be within the first 2 weeks after classes begin.
11. Have fun!

A small group leader should be:¹

1. **Enthusiastic.** Verbalize your excitement at the potential of the group and the learning that can take place.
2. **Honest.** Share both your personal successes and failures. If you want your students to be real, you must be real first.
3. **Vulnerable.** Realize that your failures do not hurt the gospel. In fact, make the Gospel necessary.
4. **Teachable.** Come to each meeting as a learner rather than as someone who always knows all the answers.
5. **Prayerful.** Pray for your group during recruitment and planning.
6. **Confident.** Trust God to work through the group dynamics and the Christians in the group.

¹ Bartlett, Dave and Muir, Bill; Talking the Walk: 31 sessions for new small groups, Zondervan, 2000, p.11.

7. **Flexible.** Tweak the curriculum to the needs of the group and always look for teachable moments from life.

Communicating with parents:

1. Please send home the parent letter the first night of class.
2. If parents insist on wanting to come to a class ONCE, consider letting them come to one class after the first two or three sessions.

What it means to be a servant leader:

When Jesus came, He lived radically! He led a life that was very "outside the box," yet it was very freeing to the people. He brought about a paradigm shift in the way God's people should live and lead!

Jesus Christ: The most influential person to have ever walked the earth. His name has reached every continent. His death and resurrection occurred over 2000 years ago, yet He is still worshipped today.

How did Jesus build influence such that He is remembered today as the leader that the masses followed, and still follow? How can our leadership model His?

1. **He knew who He was.**
2. **He knew His purpose and mission.**
3. **He served His cause by serving His people.**

Jesus was a Servant-Leader. John 13:1-17

The Joy of Serving!

We can find joy in our obedience to God's calling.
As He glorifies His name by using us to help change the lives of those around us, we can celebrate His handiwork!