



EVERYTHING IS FINE

A Quick Guide to Small Groups





Summary

How can we make the most of this opportunity to impact our small group for eternity? Here are four questions to move beyond surface level facts.



Small Group Commitment #4
Be Authentic



Two Minute Read



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Small groups are intended to be places of depth and intentionality, a safe place to share real life issues as people enter transparent conversations that draw out the heart. But as a Small Group Leader, it can be hard to get people to go past the superficial events and share more than surface level activities. Though it is easy to keep people at an arm's distance and pretend that everything is okay, all of our earthly securities have been stripped away with the arrival of a pandemic that has brought fear, anxiety, hardship, loss and isolation on a global scale. While its exact impact may vary slightly from person to person, the reality is that nobody is unaffected or can carry on with their lives as before.

Nobody can say, "I'm good. Everything is fine. Nothing has changed."

Though COVID-19 has presented significant challenges to Small Groups, such as not being able to physically meet together and people being out of their usual routines. These challenges pale in comparison to the opportunities this unique time offers to change both the direction and identity of your group as you walk through this reality together. Times of hardship and loss are fertile ground for the Lord to draw people out of themselves and deepen their sense of trust and dependency on Him. When life is hard, people can more easily recognize their need for help and see just how vulnerable they are in a world that is beyond their control. For members who formerly were comfortably entrenched in their lives and viewed God as simply an add-on, He has suddenly become a whole lot more relevant and necessary. For the self-righteous who thought of themselves as having it all together, the stay-at-home orders have likely exposed areas of heart idolatry, impatience, pride or other things they were placing their identity in.

Just imagine the future trajectory of your small group as people move beyond sharing surface level facts and begin sharing their lives.

Every single person in your group, including you as a Leader, has been impacted in some way by the current events. So how can we make the most of this unique opportunity created by this crisis to impact our small group for eternity? Perhaps right now God is working to reveal areas of idolatry, selfishness, control and pride and is using these unusual circumstances to transform thoughts, desires and actions of your group. This should provide new levels of openness and vulnerability, because no one can say "I'm okay". As you share your own responses to these questions, think of the freedom this can instill in others as they share without fear of judgment or condemnation.



Theological Truth

We serve a God who uses every circumstance and trial of life to accomplish His divine purposes. This means nothing is ever wasted with Him. May we as Small Group Leaders lean into that reality as we seek and pursue the specific opportunities to disciple and advance His kingdom during this unique season.



Ideas to Consider

As a Small Group Leader, take advantage of your group's hunger for relationships by creating electronic and virtual spaces for your group to meet together. You can also encourage your group to rally around any members who have been hit especially hard during this time in order to help bear one another's burdens. But, perhaps the single most important thing you can do as a Leader during this time is ask your people practical questions that draw out heart realities that are being exposed by this crisis. Give your group the opportunity to process these questions together.

How you ask these questions is less important than the fact that you are asking them. From Zoom calls, emails, texts or individual conversations throughout the week, here are four questions you should be asking your small group members:

- **What is it you miss most about life before the COVID-19 crisis and why?**
- **How are current circumstances revealing what your heart worships?**
- **How have your present circumstances challenged your faith?**
- **How has this crisis deepened your sense of dependency on the Lord?**



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