

# WEEK 1 // WELCOME

## SUGGESTED LEADER OUTLINE

- **Settle in, snack, and confirm your group members' contact information (5 mins)**
- **Welcome everyone, introduce yourselves, and go over ground rules (5 mins)**
  1. Launch groups are designed to introduce you to Christ-centered community here at Summit. These groups meet for five weeks and go through Summit-provided content to facilitate conversation, encourage meaningful connections, and help you determine if the group is a good fit for you. If at the end of the five weeks you do not believe this is the group for you, you can feel free to try another one. Our hope is for you to find your Connect group through this process.
  2. Maintain privacy— everything that is said in the group stays in the group.
  3. Listening to each other is important— refrain from cross-talk and providing unsolicited advice. We want to create an environment where everyone feels safe to share their thoughts.
  4. Missing group time is discouraged. While it's understandable that unforeseen circumstances may come up, it's still important to be present as much as possible. Please contact your leader if you will be unable to attend your group.
  5. Our goals for Connect groups are to learn, serve, and worship together. Over the next five weeks we will discuss how this group can accomplish these goals.
- **Ask everyone to share his or her name and answer the question, “What made you want to join a Connect group?” (20 mins)**
- **Read “How to use this book” and “The Idea” from Week 1 (10 mins)**
  - Note: You can go around the circle, each reading a paragraph if you don't want to ask for volunteers.

- **Read “For the Group” — Read Acts 2:46-47 and answer Question 1. (5 mins)**

*46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

- **Answer Question 2 as a group (10 mins)**
- **Ask everyone to answer two of the questions from Question 3 (15 minutes)**
  - Note: The group has already shared their name and why they joined the group. Don't let them off that easy.
- **Share prayer requests (20 mins)**
  - Note: It may be a good idea to have someone write them down for the group and email them out to everyone. Ask for a volunteer to do this.
- **Close in prayer**

# WEEK 2 // CHRIST-CENTERED RELATIONSHIPS

## SUGGESTED LEADER OUTLINE

- **Settle in, eat, and take attendance (5 mins)**
- **If you have any new members joining you—**
  - Introduce all group members. (5 – 10 mins)
  - Cover ground rules from Week 1 notes for any new members.
- **Strategic Concerns (5 mins)**
  - Bring a Summit bulletin to the group and recap what's going on in the church.
  - In Week 4 you will be doing a service project together. Contact the Summit Connect Director for more details. Share information about the service project with your group.
- **Introduce what you're doing this week (below) and open in prayer (5 mins)**
  - We will be reading through Ephesians 4:11-6 which talks about coming together and growing in spiritual maturity. We will be looking more closely at what it means to be in Christ-centered relationships and what it means to speak the truth in love.
- **Read or have someone in your group read Ephesians 4:11-16**

*11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

- **Ask the group to share their answers from Question 3 in the “For You” section (10 mins)**
- **Group discussion of answers from question 4 in the “For You” section (45 mins)**
  - It is vitally important that individuals feel safe sharing during this time. The way we do this is by encouraging, affirming, and thanking everyone for being honest and sharing where they're at with God. Also, the allotted 45 minutes is just a starting point. It's ok to take less or more time as the group needs. If more time is needed, feel free to extend this week into next week's time. Do what feels most honoring for your group's time and everyone's stories.
- **Share prayer requests and pray**

## WEEK 3 // LEARN

### SUGGESTED LEADER OUTLINE

This week we start to turn a corner in that the core of your group is starting to take shape. An outline is included below but now that you know your group well, you should feel free to cater the group's time to what will be most beneficial for them.

- **Settle in and fill-out the attendance sheet (5 mins)**
  - Introduce any new members and cover ground rules (5 – 10 mins)
- **Strategic Concerns for your group & Summit**
  - Bring a Summit bulletin to the group and recap what's going on in the church.
  - Remind the group that next week you will be serving together during your group time. If you have details on the project (i.e. what to wear) share them with the group. If not, let them know that you will contact them this week with additional information.
- **Ask someone to open the group time in prayer**
- **Quick intro of what you're doing this week (suggestion below) (5 mins)**

This week we will be covering what it looks like to learn together as a group—why we're asked to "love God with your mind" by learning together through study. We ask groups to study Scripture which, though isn't the only authority, it is the highest authority that teaches us about God. This week's discussion about study interests and materials will have us looking at different formats learning may take on beyond the five-week starter group. Different formats include video series, Bible character studies, Christian books, and sermon series studies. Even if you're not sure if you will want to continue in this group beyond the initial five weeks (though we hope you will!) engage in the conversation to express what your interests are when it comes to learning about the amazing God who created us.

- **Read or have someone in your group read 2 Timothy 3:14-17**

*14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how*

*from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God[a] may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- **Ask the group to share their answers from Question 2 from “For You” (15 mins)**
- **Group discussion of answers from Question 4 from “For You” (20 mins)**
- **Share prayer requests and pray for each other. (20 mins)**

## WEEK 4 // SERVE

### SUGGESTED LEADER OUTLINE

Congratulations! You are in week 4 and going strong. Please start to communicate with the Summit Connect Director about the future plans for your group so we can be sure you are supported. Start talking about what the upcoming weeks could look like for your group if you are planning to continue meeting beyond the initial five weeks.

- **Settle in, eat snacks, and fill-out the attendance sheet, (5 mins)**
- **Strategic Concerns for your group & Summit (5 mins)**
  - Bring a Summit bulletin to the group and recap what's going on in the church.
  - Group Business  
Next week is the last week of the “dating” period for your group. You should discuss this with your group and decide if you want to plan any sort of celebration during or after next week's lesson.
- **Ask someone to open the group time in prayer**
- **Read through the “Idea” section of Chapter 4 together to refresh the topic for everyone.** (Pass the responsibility of reading around) (5 mins)
- **Read or have someone in your group read Matthew 25:34-40**

*34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’*

- **Ask the group to share their answers from Question 2 from “For You” (15 mins)**
- **Host a group discussion around answers from Questions 6 and 7 from the “For the Group” section (20 mins)**
- **Share prayer requests and pray for each other (20 mins)**



# WEEK 5 // WORSHIP

## SUGGESTED LEADER OUTLINE

Congratulations! You made it to week 5! Take some time to celebrate completing the five-week Launch Group phase and talk with your group about plans moving forward.

- **Settle in, eat, and celebrate! (5 mins)**
- **Strategic Concerns for your group & Summit (5 mins)**
  - Bring a Summit bulletin to the group and recap what's going on in the church.
  - Group Business

This is the end of your group's "dating period". Talk with your group about the logistics of continuing community moving forward. Know that this group may not be the right fit for everyone— make sure everyone feels comfortable with that idea and emphasize that your first priority is making sure they have opportunities to connect. Offer to help them get in contact with the Summit Connect Director if they would most benefit from finding another group to try out.

If your group is planning to continue meeting, discuss what you will study, what your plans will be surrounding any upcoming holidays, and how information will be distributed. Cover any other logistics such as how members should communicate when they will not be able to attend, childcare needs if applicable, or where you will meet. The Summit Connect Director can assist your group if you would like to request meeting space at Summit. If you have not done so yet, log in to the Summit Connect website and make sure your group roster is up to date. Check in with any group members who may still be undecided about continuing with your group.
- **Ask someone to open the group time in prayer**
- **Read through the "Idea" section of Lesson 5 together to refresh the topic for everyone.** (Pass the responsibility of reading around) (5 mins)
- **Read or have someone in your group read John 4:23-24 and Romans 12:1-2**

*23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

*1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

- **Host a group discussion around all the answers from the “For You” section (15 mins)**
- **Answer the “For the Group” questions (15 mins)**
- **Discuss your next meeting day and time**
- **Share prayer requests and pray for each other. (20 mins)**