

***Co-led groups help us align with our mission to reach more students for Christ by providing shared leadership, relational variety, and multiplication opportunities.***

**First, shared leadership.** Jesus desires for us to serve in community, not alone. Modeled from Jesus sending out his disciples in pairs (Mark 6, Luke 10) and Paul's journeys with missionary partners, shared leadership is always preferable, especially in the case of serving students. So, each of our leaders is paired with another adult (or high school student, if leading for GZ) for accountability, support, and sharing the work load.

**Second, relational variety.** Two small group leaders will have double the depth of knowledge, experience, and wisdom they can offer a group. Each has their own story and can have a unique impact on their students. Recent studies have also shown that increasing the number of strong adult Christian influences improves the "stickiness," or longevity, of a student's faith.

**Finally, multiplication.** Once a group reaches the multiplication threshold of 16, two more leaders will be added to that group as it moves toward being multiplied into two co-led groups. Having two original co-leaders increases the likelihood that the group will navigate their relational and logistic challenge easier.

As we seek to reach more and more students for Christ, we know that the need for more small group leaders will grow in proportion. However, we will strive to maintain this value of co-leadership in small groups for the sake of the students and the leaders themselves.

### **Ideal Ratio for Student Ministries at Eagle Brook**

8-16 students, co-led

Groups will begin the multiplication process when they reach 16 students.

### **Tips for Communicating Well With Your Co-Leader**

**Get to know each other.** Build a strong relationship by touching base on a regular basis by phone, text, e-mail, or in person. A good rule of thumb is to meet together at least once a month for planning and to talk about how things are going. Effective teams must be willing to love one another, encourage one another, humble themselves, and forgive one another.

Here are some things you could discuss to get to know each other:

1. If you could witness any event past, present or future, what would it be?
2. If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?
3. If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet?
4. What's the hardest thing you've ever done?
5. What was the last experience that made you a stronger person?
6. Who has been the biggest influence in your life?
7. What kinds of things really make you laugh?

8. What's your favorite place in the entire world?
9. What's your biggest goal in life right now?
10. What is your favorite way to spend a Saturday?
11. Have you figured out your calling in life? What is it?
12. Ask, "Your house is on fire, and everyone is safe. You have thirty seconds to run through the house and collect three or four articles you want to save. What would you grab? Why?"
13. How long have you been coming to Eagle Brook? How has it impacted your life?
14. When did you begin a relationship with Jesus? How do you grow in your relationship with Him?
15. What are two important spiritual experiences in your life?

**Make a game plan.** The more communication, the better. Have an idea of what each of you will do each week during small group. Are you bringing anything extra to share or handout? Are you going to switch of who leads the majority each week? Are you going to each at a portion every week?

Discuss how you will lead together:

1. What made you want to be a small group leader?
2. What is one important thing you want the students to learn this year?
3. What are your spiritual gifts (results from taking Eagle Brook's online GPS course)? How do you hope to use them in leading our small group?
4. What are some of your strengths as a leader? What do you love doing in leading a group (e.g., asking questions, planning get hang-out time with students, discussing the Bible)?
5. Are you going to work together to plan out your small group time each week? Or is one of you going to plan, and the other assist? Will you take turns leading every other week?
6. To stay in touch, do you prefer email or phone?
7. When is it best to call you on the phone? What is the best number to call?
8. How will we communicate to our parents?

**Always remember, you're a team.** You have to have each other's backs. Give each other the benefit of the doubt and talk through conflict. The best thing to do if a conflict arises is to talk directly to each other about the issue and not others. If you need to, bring in your coach to help work through the problem. Honesty and open-mindedness are important traits that make or break effective team ministry.