

**In Student Ministries we help students become lifelong followers of Jesus Christ by creating engaging experiences and developing relationships that transform lives.**

**The Small Group Leader team connects relationally with a small group of students to create an environment of spiritual growth through the pursuit of the five Essentials. Here's how we do it:**

### Fill Up First

- Prioritize growth in a personal relationship with Jesus, keeping Him at the center of everything we do and being equipped to lead others to do the same.
- Intentionally pray for the students in your group and their families throughout the week.

### Spend Time on Their Turf

- Know the heart and story of the students in your group, including their school, parents, where they live.
- Partner with parents by introducing yourself and engaging in an ongoing conversation with them.
- Take time to learn the struggles and successes of the students.
- Show up on their “turf” – any environment personal to a student.
- Connect with your small group and their families throughout the week. Follow up with group members that were absent.
- Regularly reach out to your students outside of Wednesday nights with emails, texts, social media contacts, or outside activities – showing ways that you care.

### Get in the Game

- Commit to serving consistently and being present both mentally and physically. Showing up predictably each week creates trust, accelerates community, and builds common ground.
- Be committed to the mission of Student Ministries and consistent in your serving time. With the impact of your role in mind, communicate any changes with your team lead.
- Read communication updates from your leader prior to your serving time to stay informed.
- Look through and study curriculum prior to small group time.
- Check in with your team lead at scheduled time to participate in huddle, receive instructions, connect with your team, and prepare to serve.
- Use group conversations after volunteer leader huddle to seek out new ideas, brainstorm, troubleshoot issues, share prayer requests, and become more equipped to do ministry.

### Enjoy the Journey

- Be patient, allowing time and flexibility to develop relationships.
- Facilitate, guide, and encourage group members in participation and building positive relationships with one another.
- As you build relationships with your group and see transformation, don't forget to take time to celebrate and have a ton of fun!

### Be Authentic

- Simply being who you are is important to a group's success.
- You don't have to know all the answers.
- Be willing to share your own struggles and stories as you encourage the students to share their own.