

# Small Group Guidelines

**The WIN of small group is to create an environment where people can be REAL with God and others.**

**To achieve this, we follow these guidelines:**

**SAFE** - We will do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open, and honest with his or her struggles and victories no matter what walk of life we're in. We're not here to pass judgement or argue our point of view. We are here to grow and walk out our faith together in community.

**LISTEN** - Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond, or what you are going to say next.

**PAUSE** - Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares. Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

**CROSS TALK** - Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

**NO FIXING OR RESCUING** - We are not here to fix or rescue each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement, speak truth, and point to Jesus but don't try to fix each other. When people are sharing something deeply personal, we have a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves, but this will often cause them to stop sharing. **SHARING** Be sensitive about the amount of time you share. Please share what is on your heart but make sure you are also leaving time for others to share.

**SELF-AWARENESS** - Be aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions, use of cell phones, and non-verbal communication.

**"I" STATEMENTS** - It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them" or "the church" or "us" or "we," etc.