TABLE LEADER

# Background

Church @ The Springs on-campus events such as large group Bible studies and Growth Track serve as potential “on-ramps” for people to take the next steps in group leadership.

Large group Bible studies provide an “introductory” group experience as an alternative to joining a group meeting in a home. Typically, large group studies focus on a book of the Bible using videos and a study guide.

Growth Track is designed to challenge attendees to be intentional about their own spiritual development and obedience to the call of Christ in their lives.

Table leaders at these events facilitate conversation, help table members process information and apply scripture, and encourage relationships with others at the table. The environment of leading groups at tables serves as part of the training path for table leaders to move towards potentially co-leading and leading a group.

**Expectations**

As hosts and discussion facilitators, table leaders play a vital role in ensuring a safe environment for people to learn and discuss faith issues without judgment. In a random seating of attendees, a table could potentially include seasoned Christians alongside those seeking more information about what it means to be a Christ follower. In this environment, the call to be disciple-makers and learning from one another fulfills an expectation of Christian community.

Over time table leaders can be expected to grow towards leading small groups where they can continue growing in community and Biblical knowledge, serve together, and carry out the great commission together.

**Requirements**

Table leaders will:

1. effectively model prayer, read scripture, and have an earnest desire to grow spiritually while attending church regularly
2. pray for other table leaders, for those who sit at their table, and for themselves
3. arrive an hour before each session to attend the table leaders huddle and help with meeting last-minute setup/details.
4. play an active role in welcoming attendees to the on-campus event
5. not set expectations for attendees or pressure anyone to talk, read, or share. The goal is to create an environment where the Holy Spirit can work on each person
6. actively participate in the study, by reading ahead, answering the study questions, and completing the “On Your Own” material each week.
7. identify potential table leaders and communicate with your group coordinator
8. be familiar with the table leader guide (*Ref.* *How to Lead a Table*).

TABLE LEADER GUIDE *(How to Lead a Table)*

1. Lead by example
* Prepare and review the study material before the meeting
* Be a positive and encouraging role model and a lead by example by opening and closing your table’s discussion with prayer
1. Guide the discussion
	* Be mindful of the time and seek to gently keep the group on topic
	* Don't be afraid of silence. Let the people at your table have time to think about the question they have just been asked
	* Don't give solutions, and don’t solve anyone's problems or give personal advice
	* Don’t try to rush through every question in the study guide, but rather select a few and let the evolving discussion set the pace and help choose the next study guide questions to ask.
2. Be an active listener
	* Be open and sincere in the way you talk with others, and affirm each participant
	* Create an atmosphere of caring and trust, and be respectful of all points of view
	* Never interrupt or finish a sentence for someone
	* Concentrate on listening to what the speaker has to say, rather than thinking of your reply before the speaker has finished. By gesture or a word, acknowledge the person for their comment.
	* Only one person should speak at a time and do not form subgroups or cliques
	* Give each person an opportunity to speak and gently encourage quiet people to contribute to the discussion.
3. Expectations
* Expect to learn and grow alongside the participants at your table
* Be cautious of rabbit trails that could lead to division at the table. A Core value of The Springs is to “Focus on things that unite, not on the things that divide us”.
* Each table should have a set of blank cards to use to write down any tricky or difficult questions to request a response from a group coordinator or staff member.
* Foster relationships between group members, not just with the table leader. You may have to minimize your comments to energize and encourage group talk, thus providing more opportunities for friendships to develop.