

## LEADERS GUIDE - GROWTH GROUP CODE OF CONDUCT

This form is downloadable at <http://okotoksefc.ca/index.php/ggroups/leaders>

**Yes!!!! You are allowed to edit this to meet your group needs as required.**

*When discussing – use the proactive leadership style – clear direction, yet flexible.*

Leaders Ph.#

Hosts Ph.#

*Part of the Code of Conduct involves responsibility for personal actions... but people can't be held responsible for not communicating if they don't know how to reach you. Infellowship, OEFC's database will allow you to keep in contact with your people, but please do provide them with your numbers here.*

*Small groups thrive on participation! The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to help you to discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations, and commitments.*

### GROWTH GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24, 25). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

#### SHARING

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

*Sharing is a risky term to use with men. It makes some people uncomfortable. However it starts with "S" so it fits with the rest of this list. However, don't make it sound too touchy feely when you describe. Make sure people understand that you are using "sharing" as a synonym for "discussion". Real sharing will come as the group gels together over time.*

#### STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous Sun-day's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

***OUR GOAL IS TO INTERACT INTERPERSONALLY ON THE TOPIC AND HOW WE CAN FOLLOW CHRIST PRACTICALLY, NOT ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS.***

## SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and meeting real needs.

## SERVE

Spiritual Growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the semester it is our hope that you can find and or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

*We will be constantly building and modifying a list of ideas for service projects. Help contribute to it by brainstorming with your group for ideas.*



## Leader's Guide—Growth Group Covenant (Continued)

### FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

For our group to be healthy, we need to . . .

#### 1) Make spiritual growth our number one priority

God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name. After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself. And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun. (Romans 8:29-30 MSG).

*Tangents – they are OK sometimes, but sometimes we need to be refocused. We'll need to keep this our focus and stay on topic.*

#### 2) Take care of one another

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34).

*When a crisis happens we're there to help with support, prayer, encouragement, listening, meals, etc.*

#### 3) Accept each other

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. (Romans 15:7 NIV)

*– we will have different preferences.*

#### 4) Treat each other with respect

Read Ephesians 4:25-5:2.

*Listening to one another, if one's talking let's all listen, nothing worse than two conversations going on at once. Our goal is to listen, not give advice. (Advice is given when asked for) We are not here to judge, or fix – unless someone asks. An example of giving advice is by saying, "Well, this is what I think you should do." On the other hand, that doesn't mean we can't question what is said or what someone is doing.*

*Some of us have the gift of gab, also known as a dominator – be careful not to take charge of every conversation. If required I as leader might have to help you by pulling you aside and asking you to talk less and listen more.*

*Be careful of gossip prayers – For example... "We need to pray for (person's name) because they are doing this ..."*

*No put downs.*

*Confidentiality – what is said here, stays here – unless its life threatening – then we may need to seek help.*

### 5) Keep our commitments to the group

Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart...who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind; (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b)

*Please give us a call if you can't make it to Growth Group*

*Spiritual Growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the semester it is our hope that you can find and or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.*

### Guidelines and Code of Conduct

#### 1. Dates

We'll meet on \_\_\_\_\_ nights for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks. Our final meeting of the session will be on \_\_\_\_\_.

*Fill in blanks. 10 weeks is default for length of semester.*

#### 2. Time

We'll arrive between \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ and begin the meeting at \_\_\_\_\_. We'll spend approximately \_\_\_\_\_ minutes in singing (optional), \_\_\_\_\_ minutes in study/discussion, and \_\_\_\_\_ minutes in prayer/sharing.

Fill in blanks. Change this as needed based on your needs and personalities.

#### 3. Children

Group members are responsible to arrange child care for their children. Nursing newborns are welcome provided they are not a distraction to the group!

*It's up to you what you really do with kids in your group. However, at no time should the children become a distraction to parents or other people in the group without good reason. What starts out as a casual conversation and moves into a deep and moving time can easily be destroyed by kids who interrupt or make excessive noise.*

#### 4. Study

Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous Sunday's sermon.

*Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life. Not answer every question.*

## 5. Prayer

Praying for one another – *introduce or remind group about tips on topical prayer – see next pages*

## 6. Homework & Attendance

Joining a Growth Group requires a 12-week commitment to attend each week and to do the homework ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, and other special events—but not much more! This commitment is the key to a healthy group. Most weeks require 20-30 minutes of homework to prepare for the group study and discussion.

If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call or email \_\_\_\_\_, by \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm.

*Emphasize the importance of the commitment to attendance and preparation. (a good group starts with good preparation.)*

*Make sure that everyone is with you (Do we agree? Is this what we want? Make eye contact, etc.)*

7. Desserts - *Have everyone sign up for a night to do dessert or snack if applicable.*

8. Social(s) - *Emphasize the importance of a quarterly social. As leader and host have 2 or 3 suggestions ready and 2 or 3 potential dates. Choose a date or ask them to bring their calendars the next week. We prefer new groups have their social by mid semester.*

Service- *It is important that we learn to serve others and be the hands and feet of Jesus. We will attempt to try something as a group once or twice during the year.*

9. Other – *Is this a good time to suggest a service project idea etc? Include it here for future reference. Perhaps a unique situation dictates a part of the Code of Conduct unique to your group. List it here as well.*

*Have the members sign the group Code of Conduct now if they are ready. If not, they are welcome to wait until the next meeting to sign. We agree together in Christ to honor this covenant. (To be decided by each person on or before the third week.)*