



LEADERSHIP
NETWORK

Connect Group Leaders Manual

This is a snapshot of our '*Connect Group Leaders Manual*' resource.

Connect Groups are the heartbeat of Hillsong Church. With so many people coming into church every week, it could be easy for someone to get lost in the crowd, and this is where connect groups play a foundational role. Connect groups are groups of people that regularly meet up, talk about life, God, or the Bible, and simply do life together! As our church gets larger and larger, connect groups are key in making it feel small and ensuring that every individual is connected.

Here are examples of ways that we have found build effective connect groups, ensuring that every individual can be connected into community:

1. YOU THE LEADER

With the privilege of leadership comes responsibility. In his pastoral letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul lists some standards for leadership. Read them in 1 Timothy 3:1-13. Leading a connect group is a key role within church.

Whether it's weekly or fortnightly on whatever day, make sure that your connect group is family. Care and pray for your connect group - let the family atmosphere begin with you the leader. Be encouraging and uplifting to those you lead. Facilitate social activities that encourage the group to connect with each other and you. Take responsibility for growing and connecting with individuals in church life.

We also encourage you to be in a connect group yourself. It is vital to your spiritual health, and the health of those you lead that you are being input into as well. This enables you to lead from a place of strength.

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2. CREATING A MEETING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

Think of a connect group-type meeting that you really enjoyed. What made it encouraging or helpful, so that you were looking forward to the next gathering? The best connect groups are ones where people look forward to going to them, where you build and bring that atmosphere each time you meet!

The goal is to reproduce the atmosphere and spirit of our weekend services in your own home. Have a plan, keep within your start and finish times, give time to connect, open up the word, pray and encourage giving to the connect group missions offering. Have some fun! Keep it fresh. We want people to enjoy life together, and sometimes that looks like nights out in a safe environment.

3. CONNECT GROUPS WHO CARE

Building connect groups who care through age-groups is effective because people can find and connect with their peers who are in a similar season of life. Create a safe place where people can come as they are, feel welcomed and accepted, and can be vulnerable and open up.

Celebrate personal milestones and achievements; we support each other through tough times, we believe in each other's potential and show loyalty by keeping and building confidence when people trust us enough to share.

4. TRAINING OF NEW LEADERS AND PRACTICALITIES

Connect groups run fortnightly at locations across Australia, from lounge rooms in homes, to cafes and restaurants. The full 'Connect Group Leaders Manual' resource shares activities for training new connect group leaders, role descriptions for leaders, how-to's on building healthy group dynamics, setting financial offering faith goals and sample meeting plans, and a questionnaire to help evaluate where potential leaders are in their leadership journey. This resource is used by our locations across Australia and forms the foundation for how we have found that we can build healthy connect groups.

Similar Resources available on Online Portal

Our full '*Connect Group Leaders Manual*' resource and much more content is available today on the Hillsong Leadership Network Online Portal.

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