

# Creating Irresistible Group Environments: Breakout: 8 Leader Essentials for GroupLife

Community Groups are our flagship small group environments. It is here where we believe the most significant and sustainable life-change can take place. In order for this life-change to occur, people must join and enjoy their group experience. The more people who have an amazing Community Group experience, the more the word will get out, and the attractiveness of our invitation will increase. So how do we create irresistible Community Group environments? Here are the basics below. Stayed tuned for part two of the notes from this discussion detailing the “best practices” from some of our experienced Community Group Leaders.

## Stay Connected

- This connection between you and God will influence and empower all of your activity and interaction with your group.

## Cultivate Relationships

- Do ice-breakers that everyone participates in and that build individual trust and team unity.
- Interact with the members of the group outside of the meeting. Here’s where relationships become most authentic.

## Promote Participation

- Affirm each person when they speak, especially early in the group’s life.
- Draw everyone into the conversation. When there is a person who seems slow to jump into the discussion, graciously ask their opinion or request their input.
- Be transparent yourself, as the leader.
- Talk less than 30% of the time.
- Recognize others talents and involve them. I.e. communications to group, Prayer requests, Dinner arrangements etc.

## Serve Together

- Find opportunities to serve together. Groups that serve together grow in connectedness to each other and to God.

## Celebrate Change

- Recognize growth in others.
- Encourage one another regularly by looking for the small wins.

## Provide Care

- When you don’t know the answer to a question asked of you, say you don’t know but that you’ll try to find out and that you’ll get back to the group with the answer to the question.
- Recognize when you don’t have an answer and reach out to the Care Ministry for help.
- Respond to delicate situations/moments with grace and sensitivity.

## Replace Yourself

- Allow others to facilitate the group with sufficient notice.
- Recognize gifts and talents in others and ask them to use them to benefit the group.

## End Well

- Once established as an official group, prepare the group by setting an end date.
- Discuss the opportunity of multiplication often.
- Remind members the end doesn’t mean the end of relationship, just the organization of the group.