

Promote Participation

Have you ever wondered what exactly is my role as a group leader? What am I responsible for? You may think your responsibilities are scheduling and hosting group meetings, facilitating discussions, providing snacks, setting up service projects, organizing socials and retreats. Those are all important tasks, but they're just tasks. You're not actually responsible for doing any of them, you're just responsible for making sure they happen.

It's a common misperception that group leadership is all about handling the details, but good leaders delegate. That's what the leader essential of promote participation is all about. Helping others participate is important because it makes group better. Asking group members to serve one another by taking on some of the tasks that make group happen helps them to experience group in new and deeper ways. It creates a sense of ownership within the group and it translates to your group members being more invested in the group's relationships and more intentional about the growth the group is pursuing.

So as a leader, ask yourself, "How am I involving my group members in supporting the group?" As group members take ownership of the group, there's another benefit and it allows you to focus on what only you, the leader, can do. There are two responsibilities that should be your primary focus as a leader and it's important to note that **these are responsibilities not tasks**. Tasks often feel urgent but they are never as important as responsibilities. Responsibilities on the other hand, are rarely urgent, but they're extremely important.



And that's why it's so vital for you to delegate tasks to your group members, so you can focus on these two responsibilities:

1. Pay attention to the spiritual growth of everyone in the room.

Every group member is responsible for their own spiritual growth, but you are uniquely positioned to keep an eye on the big picture. You should pay attention to what's going on in the lives of your group members, listen to their struggles, observe how they participate in group discussions and watch for life change.

2. Create an environment where everyone has the opportunity to grow spiritually.

When we say create an environment, we're not really talking about a physical environment, though that's part of it, we want you to create a relational environment where group members feel safe to talk openly about their challenges. It's an environment that supports the journey of their growing relationship with Jesus Christ and guides them to practical steps.

These two responsibilities can be summarized in two questions that you can always ask yourself: What is God up to in the lives of my group members? And What can my group do to support it?

Those two responsibilities are a big deal, when you promote participation you clear the path of clutter so you can focus on them. And lastly, promote participation is a great first step toward another of our 8 leader essentials called replace yourself. If you promote participation from the outside of your group you'll gain a better sense of which your group members will benefit from taking steps into group leadership. So take a few minutes to write down some of the tasks you can delegate.



Maybe you can even delegate tasks associated with things like service projects, socials, or a weekend retreat. In the next week personally ask group members to begin helping with the logistics of group. It can be the best way you can beginning to promote participation.

