

## What Makes A Great Group Leader?

There's a lot of information, practical application, and on the job training that goes into leader development. It can feel overwhelming. But the quality of your leadership depends less on what you know, than on your posture as you lead and serve your group members. Whether they're brand new to leadership or have been leading groups for years and years; **great leaders are humble, teachable, curious, and intentional.** Leaders that adopt that posture, put others first, are open to what group members have to say, even when they don't agree, are quick to ask questions, and slow to offer simple answers, and they think carefully about what a group member needs in any given situation.

There will come a time in your leadership when you're faced with a challenging situation that can be addressed by applying one or more of the eight Leader Essentials. The essentials are designed to teach you what you need to know about leading and help you take a practical step toward becoming a more mature and effective leader. They aren't a checklist but a set of gauges to help you evaluate your leadership no matter how much of a veteran you are. But if you're a new leader you may not know in that moment how to best navigate the situation. That's ok! Your skills as a leader will grow in time as you lead. In fact, navigating your groups unique challenges will push you to grow. No matter what situation you face you can lead well if you remain humble, teachable, curious, and intentional.

When you enter into any situation, especially if you're unsure what to do next, your posture can bridge the gap between what you don't know and what your group needs.



That's because your group members don't expect you to be an expert in all areas. They don't expect you to solve all of their problems. But they want you to be caring and empathetic. Usually the best thing you can do is listen well and ask the kind of clarifying questions that help others discover next steps or adopt new perspectives on their own.

Finally, all great group leader have a pastor or church person on staff pouring into their lives. We call that person a group's director. They can offer practical advice about how to handle challenges that come up in group. But they cant be there during a group meeting to offer real time advice. Just because you don't have immediate access to an answer or a solution that doesn't mean you can't lead well. Just practice the leader posture. Be humble, teachable, curious, and intentional. The simplest way to do that is to continually ask yourself these questions; **What do my group members need? And what can I do to help?** The answers to these questions will help you to become a great group leader.

