

**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES
LEADER INFORMATION & COMMITMENT PACKET**

Name: _____ Birthday: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

- ▶ **I am:** _____ NEW to leadership in the GBC adult small group ministry
 _____ a RETURNING leader in the GBC small group ministry

- ▶ **I am applying for leadership in the following ministry:**
 _____ Men's Ministry _____ Women's Ministry _____ Home Church

- ▶ **I am applying for the following leadership position:**
 _____ Small group Coach _____ Small group Leader/Co-Leader _____ Apprentice Leader

LEADERSHIP CRITERIA

Serving in leadership at Grace Bible Church is a privilege. It is a reward for faithful service, and should be taken very seriously. While none of us are perfect, we do believe that leadership is a high calling that requires us to live above reproach by constantly relying on the effectual power of the Holy Spirit. The following criteria describe such a life and are necessary for someone being considered for leadership (Elders, Deacons, Sunday School Teachers, and all small group leaders- Bible Study, Discipleship, Mentoring, Grace Life Groups, etc.)...

1. The leader must have a clear understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and must have trusted in Christ as his/her personal Savior.
2. The leader must be a member in good standing at Grace Bible Church.
3. The leader must be committed to a vibrant and growing walk with the Lord (time in God's Word and time in prayer on a regular basis).
3. If married, the leader must have a healthy and God-honoring marriage. If single, the leader must remain physically and sexually pure. Every leader should have an accountability structure with those he/she is close to in order to keep from stumbling in this area. (1 Thess. 4:3-8)
4. The leader must confess his/her sin to the Lord, as well as to others when appropriate, for the purpose of restoration and continued fellowship with Christ and the Body.
5. The leader must be able to work in harmony with others. He/she must not be a person who consistently causes disputes or has "personality conflicts" with other people. (Phil. 2:1-4, Eph. 4:2-3)
6. The leader must be committed to excellence in whatever capacity he/she is serving. This does not necessarily mean that he/she spends every waking moment in the service of this position, but it does mean that he/she has a heart for this particular position.
7. The criteria for this position are essentially the same as those outlined for Elders in 1 Tim 3 and Titus 1. Leaders at Grace Bible Church must be above reproach in the community and have a good reputation. Therefore, it may be necessary to lay aside certain freedoms or privileges that those not leading might normally exercise. The principle to be guided by is that we prize the reputation of Christ above our own personal freedom or enjoyment. This means that as leaders, we must be careful about the places we spend our time and the company we keep.
8. Leadership positions for Small Group Coach, Leader, Co-Leader or Apprentice are year-long commitments.

- ▶ **After carefully reading through these "Leadership Criteria," do you agree to abide by and uphold these standards? Yes / No** If no, please explain on the back.

LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES & COMMITMENT

Serving as a small group coach, leader/co-leader or apprentice leader is a major commitment with great rewards. By investing in the lives of the people in your small group, you will be influencing the next generation of leaders toward spiritual maturity. Small groups are one of the best environments in which life transformation can take place. They are a biblical and essential “form” that God uses in the sanctification process.

Below are brief descriptions of the responsibilities and commitment expectations for each of the positions.

SMALL GROUP COACH

- A small group coach trains and encourages approximately 5 small group leaders. Coaches may facilitate their group’s interaction during the pastor-led curriculum/content portion of leader meetings. They lead their group during the “coach time” portion of leader meetings. Coaches pray for, shepherd, help problem solve and strategize with their small group leaders.
- Faithful attendance at Leader’s Meetings
- Prep time (2-4 hours/week)
- Occasional scheduled coach training

SMALL GROUP LEADER/CO-LEADER

- A small group leader is responsible for facilitating his/her group’s discussion of the weekly curriculum content and for helping the group progress in the aims outlined in the Grace Bible Church definition of small groups.
- Faithful attendance at Leader’s Meetings
- Prep time (2-4 hours/week)
- Small group time (2+ hours/week or every other week)

SMALL GROUP APPRENTICE LEADER

- A small group apprentice leader is responsible for assisting in the leading of the small group under the direction of the small group leader. The goal of an apprentice leader is to develop in their leadership skills by leading in “bite-sized” portions through out the year.
- Optional (but encouraged) attendance at Leader’s Meetings
- Prep time (2-4 hours/week)
- Small group time (2+ hours/week or ever other week)

► **After reading through the responsibilities and commitments for serving in small group leadership, will you commit to fulfilling these expectations through the power of the Holy Spirit?** *Yes / No If no, please explain.*

► **Have you completed the Grace Bible Church *Essentials* study?** *Yes / No*
If no, we would ask you to go through the Essentials packet this summer so you’re familiar with this material.

SPIRITUAL LIFE AND GROWTH

Briefly describe how you came to have a personal relationship with Christ. If you need more room, feel free to use the back or attach another page.

How would you currently describe your walk with Christ? If you could change one thing, what would it be?

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE & INTERESTS

Please describe your current and previous involvement at Grace Bible Church as well as other ministry experience you have.

What do you believe are your particular spiritual gifts and/or God-given talents that qualify you for leadership?

Do you anticipate being involved in other ministry activities during your time of small group leadership? If so, which ones?

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Please answer the following doctrinal questions and provide scriptural support whenever you are able. You do not have to answer from memory, and you may freely use any reference books. If you do not know what you believe about any of the questions, it is perfectly acceptable to say so.

Do you believe the Bible is inerrant (without errors in the original writings) and why?

Do you believe that Jesus was both 100% man and 100% God? How would you defend your position from Scripture?

Do you believe in a literal heaven and hell? Why or why not?

Summarize the gospel (how does a person receive eternal life?)

Is anything besides faith necessary for salvation (e.g. commitment, surrender, submission, etc.)?

Defend eternal security ("once saved always saved") from scripture.

The normal Christian life is a life of growing obedience to God. Is it possible for a believer to be carnal (live in disobedience to God)? Why or why not?

FOR RETURNING LEADERS ONLY

REFLECTING ON LAST YEAR

How did you grow through your experience as a leader this past year?

What were one or two highlights in ministry for you this past year?

What aspects of small group leadership did you find most challenging or difficult this past year?

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Since you are a returning leader you do not need to fill out a doctrinal statement again. We simply ask that you review the following summary of Grace Bible Church's doctrinal position and answer the question that follows:

*We hold to the basic truths of historic Christianity. **Scripture:** We believe that God superintended the authors of the Scripture so that, using their own individual literary styles, they composed and recorded without error God's revelation to man in the words of the original manuscripts. Because of this, the Bible is the final authority under God in the life of the Christian. **Trinity:** We believe that there is only one God, but in the unity of the Godhead there are three eternal and co-equal Persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the same in essence but distinct in function. **Humanity:** We believe that man was created in the image of God, but because our first parents fell into sin, all humans are born into a state of total depravity and spiritual death, alienated from God and unable to please Him. **Incarnation:** We believe in Jesus Christ, the uncreated and eternal Son, who was fully God from before time began but who, in the incarnation, added to His deity complete humanity except for the sin nature. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died as a substitutionary sacrifice for sin, rose bodily from the dead, and ascended to heaven where He is now exalted and from where He will one day return to judge the living and the dead. **Salvation:** We believe that a person obtains eternal life only by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ whose substitutionary death paid the just penalty for man's sin. We believe that at the moment of belief a person is declared righteous by God and is regenerated and permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit who then supernaturally enables the new believer to grow in love and obedience to God. We believe that all who have trusted in Christ as Savior will be kept by God forever saved regardless of subsequent behavior, and will be in death fully conformed to the image of His Son. Furthermore, we believe that it is the privilege of all who have trusted in Christ as Savior to be assured of their salvation based wholly upon the testimony of Scripture. **Final Things:** We believe in a literal heaven and hell; the first being the eternal habitation of believers who will be joined to their resurrected bodies and who will worship and enjoy God forever; the second being the place of eternal punishment of unbelievers.*

► **I agree completely with this doctrinal statement:** Yes / No
If no, what portion(s) do you disagree with? Why?

Signature

Date