

# GROUP LIFE LEADERS

## LEADING WELL THROUGH THE SEASONS

Most of us have a favorite season in Michigan. It might be the warm days but cool nights in summer, so many colorful leaves and ripe apples in fall, snow-covered trees and blazing fireplaces of winter or the budding plants and coming out of hibernation of spring. Each season has unique characteristics and often we create healthy rhythms that allow us to make the most out of them.

The same is true for a healthy small group. Below are some tips to help you to lead well by pointing out the unique challenges, opportunities and things to focus on in each season.

### FALL FOCUS: LAUNCH AND GROW

Although we don't all have children in school, we consider at Ada Bible fall to be the season of new beginnings. Your focus should be on launching as a group and spiritual growth. If your group is brand new, [Launching Well](#) will help you do this. If you are an existing group leader, we recommend you focus on meeting consistently and executing the plan you developed at the end of the summer. Whether you are a new group or an existing one, we recommend going through the [fall sermon series](#) at Ada Bible. This is often a great season of excitement, consistency and growth and we encourage you to lean into that!

### WINTER FOCUS: KEEP MEETING

December is a great time for the group to slow down and be social for a few weeks. Then your focus should be to keep meeting as a group. At the start of the new year, some groups try to regain the momentum of the fall by briefly reviewing how they are doing as a group and making some minor adjustments. Existing leaders can review their plans from the previous summer at this time. New leaders can find some questions to ask by looking at the summer plan below.

### SPRING FOCUS: FINISH WELL

Equipped with an updated plan, groups can head into spring with momentum. However, schedules start to fill up as the weather warms and your focus should be to finish well. Some groups find it helpful to end the spring with a celebration of the year. It might mean gathering for a cookout, bonfire or something else. At that celebration, spend time sharing all that God has done and focus on the ways you have grown throughout the year. It can be helpful to review prayer requests from the year to identify the ways God was at work in the group.

### SUMMER FOCUS: REST AND PLAN

Some people slow down or change rhythms in summer—and we encourage small groups to do the same. Instead of pushing to meet as regularly, groups can shift their focus toward building relationships by gathering socially over a bonfire, pool party, cookout, etc.

Then, as the fall approaches, focus on purposefully planning for it. A great way to do this is to simply ask questions like this to your small group: What is your favorite thing about our small group? What is something that you didn't prefer or was a challenge for you regarding the group? What do we want to focus on or grow in as a group this year? Once your group has answers to these questions, you can create a strong plan for the fall that everyone can get excited about.

#### REACH OUT TO STAFF CONTACT

We hope you find these tips helpful as you lead your group through the seasons. Please contact your staff for more specific tips for your group. They are there to help and eager to assist you.