

# AFLC Youth Ministries Youth Leader Small Groups



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# WELCOME!

Welcome! We are so glad that you are able to join us in this opportunity to walk together through this next year. Here's what you're getting into:

- Our aim is to provide a monthly setting for mutual encouragement, support, and to assist one another with various ministry questions that come up through a life of service.
- This is not training focused. We don't expect one expert to pass on information or skills to the group. Rather, we want your groups to engage in meaningful and encouraging conversations that spur each group participant onward in both your personal lives as well as your ministry endeavors.
- Each month's session contains:
  - Introductory question
  - Scripture passage & Gospel for you
  - Discussion prompts relating to your ministry and your personal walk with Christ.
- As AFLC Youth Ministries launches this new opportunity for AFLC youth leaders, we humbly request your feedback. What works; what doesn't; what improvements could be made to make each Small Group meeting worthwhile for everyone involved.

AFLC Youth Ministries Team youth@aflc.org

## SESSION 1: FEBRUARY - WIN

**Introduction Question:** When you were in Middle or High School, what was one dream you had for your future?

#### Scripture Passage: John 10:14-18

Gospel for you -- v.18 says, "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord." The Gospel isn't just for the lost or those you serve. It is for you! Jesus willingly laid down his life for you.

**Personal Question:** It is important to remember that we don't lead students only through our words but also by our examples. How is your life showing (or potentially not showing) a priority for building relationships and being ready and willing to "make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you?" (I Peter 3:15)

**Ministry Question:** One important truth from today's passage is that Jesus Himself will call those sheep that are outside of the pen. And those sheep—who already know His voice—will listen. How do we strategically approach ministry remembering this great promise: that Christ is himself calling those in our midst who are His?



# SESSION 2: MARCH - BUILD

**Introduction Question:** As a student, when was the first time you were entrusted with a significant responsibility in your congregation?

#### Scripture Passage 1 Peter 2:4-10

Gospel for you -- v.10 reminds us that while we were once opposed to God, now "you are God's people." You have been chosen in Christ and are precious to God.

#### **Personal Question:**

In our scripture passage, we encounter the idea that we are being built up as living stones. Sometimes, we get caught in the trap of teaching the Word of God to build up others without taking time to explore how we are being built up. How can you have the Word of God—Law and Gospel—applied to your own life?

#### **Ministry Question:**

What are your students placing their faith in? Do some trust in their own performance to make God happy—like being good enough or reading their bible enough? Do they see their faith as something they produce themselves? Do they focus more on faith itself instead of on who they believe in? How can you lead your students to find assurance of salvation by looking to Christ's work for them instead of to their personal response?



## SESSION 3: APRIL - EQUIP

**Introduction Question:** What was the most helpful piece of advice you ever received?

#### Scripture Passage: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Gospel for you -- v.6 and 7 remind us that even though we should strive after growth in our lives and in the lives of our teens, it is God who is at work to make you grow: "only God who gives the growth."

**Personal Question:** Like our students, we too should have a faith that is being stretched and strengthened by others who are pouring into us. It is such a blessing to have other leaders investing in you. Who do you have in your life that is pouring into you and helping you to grow in your personal walk with Christ and skills as a leader?

**Ministry Question:** Sometimes, ministry leaders are tempted to believe that they are the hero or figurehead of the ministry and therefore must do everything—or the most significant things—themselves. Christ, however, did not call us to lead by doing everything, but to encourage and equip others to do the work God has prepared for them. Are there areas you hold too tightly that prevents young leaders from having opportunities to try something new, practice a skill, live or share their faith, and grow as a maturing disciple in Jesus?



# SESSION 4: MAY - MULTIPLY

**Introduction Question:** What is your favorite way to refresh and recharge during the summer months?

#### Scripture Passage: Deuteronomy 6:4-12

Gospel for you -- Just like God brought his people out of slavery in Egypt (v.12), we look forward to the day He will come back and lead us out of this world of sin and into our land of promise. He is our sure hope!

**Personal Question:** How did you see a lifestyle of integrated faith in your home (i.e. "when you rise up, when you lay down, and when you go along the way")? How do you show gratitude and thankfulness to the Lord for the way He provided people to faithfully bring you up in His word?

**Ministry Question:** What is one new strategy that you want to implement this next school year to better connect with parents, encourage them in their vocation, and equip them to effectively lead the hearts of their children towards the Lord?





# AFLC Youth Ministries aflc.org/youth