



## Leader's Guide '24



MILE CITY CHURCH

2024 EDITION

**THE OFFICIAL MILE CITY  
CITY GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE**

HOSTING  
SHEPHERDING

DISCUSSIONS  
LOGISTICS

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# What is a City Group?

City Groups are gatherings of 12-15 people that meet in specific homes all across the Mile City on different nights of the week. These environments are intended to help build relationships while building your relationship with God. City Groups are the best place to explore and ask questions that help you on your journey of moving towards God.

Thank you for serving as a City Group Leader and *being* the church with us at Mile City.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PLYMOUTH LOCATION PASTOR, MILE CITY CHURCH

# About City Groups

In the past, we have had several roles such as apprentice, serve lead, care lead, and fun lead that we would encourage our group leaders to fill from within their group. Some found success doing this, while others struggled to get people to volunteer. Our model now is to encourage our leaders to have members of your group help you facilitate these different roles. For instance, if you are looking for someone to help with care, maybe ask who can contact the Mile City Care coordinator to let them know of this need. When looking at possible apprentices, look for small ways to get others involved in leading certain activities in your group, allowing them to gain valuable experience while not being intimidated by being considered an apprentice.

As you read in Section One, you'll see that we have defined different areas that you as the City Group Leader could invite others to 'own' and take part in, so that they may live out their giftings in your group.

# Prayer in City Groups

When it comes to praying together in your groups, we would like you to not just pray over your group but to lead your group through prayer times with an open Bible. Scripture fed spirit led worship based prayer times. **Stop asking for prayer requests while talking, instead ask for prayer requests while praying.**

Based on the text that was discussed in the group time, we would like you to find a couple of prayer prompts within the text to lead your group through prayer. If you are doing sermon-based questions, we will provide some prayer prompts for you. These prompts will be based on *the four R's* but again be Spirit-led and don't feel that you have to be tied just to the four R's.

**REVERENCE** - Identity and celebrate God's praiseworthy attributes.

**RESPONSE** - Surrender to Him and His ways.

**REQUEST** - Ask the spirit to guide your prayer over concerns, resources, and relationships.

**READINESS** - Encouragement and strength for spiritual battle.

*Example:*

**REVERENCE**

*In a sentence or two based on what it says in Psalm 1(read verse)*

*Father, I delight in your law because \_\_\_\_\_.***REQUEST**

*In a sentence or two based on what it says in Psalm 1(read verse)*

*Father would you sustain \_\_\_\_\_ as they battle with \_\_\_\_\_.*

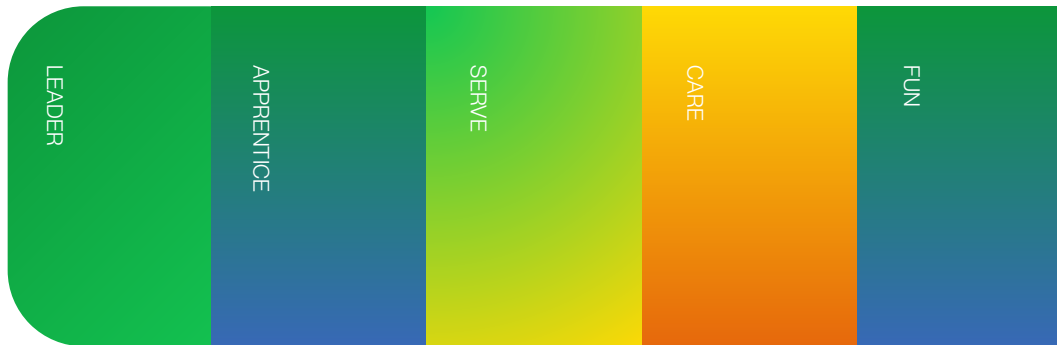
SECTION ONE

# Key Roles in City Groups

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Helping you invite others to live out their gifts in your group.

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# Leader



City Group Leaders are the main point person and spiritual leader of the City Group. City Group Leaders cultivate a welcoming and safe environment where people can move with each other and with God.

# Apprentice



Apprentices are City Group leaders in training. Many don't feel like they are ready or comfortable being called an apprentice, so as a leader look for ways to involve others in leading the fun, prayer, or question time!



# Serve



City Groups are missional communities and every City Group is responsible for planning and executing one serve opportunity outside of the City Group each Mile. Others can act as the point person for those events. The church has several wonderful seasonal partnerships with which your group might serve. Outside opportunities are also welcome, feel free to discuss with your location pastor.

Service to others means being unselfish, it means doing something for someone else without expecting any reward or gain. God is far more interested in why you serve others than in how well you serve them. He's always looking at your heart, serving willingly and eagerly out of love for Jesus and gratitude for all he's done for you. You are most like Jesus when you're serving others. After washing his disciples' feet, Jesus said, ***"I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."***

***-John 13:14-15***

# Care



As the body of Christ, we are called to carry “each other's burdens”. Scripture teaches us that this starts in our Church community. In our context, that is the City Groups.

This does NOT mean we take on ALL of someone's responsibilities. Some things are beyond the group's scope and can be shared with a staff member for further guidance. It does however mean we are to love each other as we want to be loved. Several members can help by keeping the group informed and organizing care. We also want to reach out to our Mile City Care Lead when a staff member should be made aware of any care needs.

SECTION TWO

# Leader Expectations

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What we are looking for in our City Group Leaders

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# Leader Expectations



*“Place a short verse here  
place a short verse here  
place a short verse here”  
-Citation 00:00*

- **Model** the seven in your own life.
- **Create** weekly City Group gatherings that foster authentic community and spiritual growth, through meaningful discussion, encouragement, having fun, and prayer with your group members.
- **Identify** and develop potential new leaders in your group.
- **Contact** new people who sign up for your group within 24 hours and welcome them.
- **Communicate** important group updates and information with your members in an effective and timely fashion. Communication is key... if you don't tell them, they don't know.
- **Read** (really read) weekly City Group Leader emails.
- **Track** attendance weekly in Planning Center.
- **Attend** City Group leader training and gatherings.



# Leading A Discussion



## Start with an icebreaker.

It is named this for good reason. These provided questions help break the ice and get everything warmed up. It primes the group for better conversation. We always have to remember that we won't have all seasoned believers in our groups. This could be someone's first step even before going to church.

## Understand the material you are leading.

Take time to look over the questions to understand where you are trying to go (move your group towards one big idea from the message or the specific study). Questions will be sent to your email no later than the Saturday before the message on Sunday.

## Let the Spirit lead.

If the conversation is going well don't rush it just to get through all of the questions. Same concept if you're not doing weekly questions and doing a study instead. Quality over quantity is a great aim for your group.

## What if someone talks too much or derails conversation constantly?

- Ask questions to specific people using their name(s).
- If a person continues to dominate the conversation, schedule a time to talk to them alone and complement their eagerness to answer but also ask them to only answer 1 question to leave room for others to answer.
- You're the leader, you have to keep the conversation on task. It's ok to be assertive and bold with grace :)

## What about uncomfortable silence?

Silence is golden. Remember, you as the leader have already read the questions ahead of time. This is the group's first time and they need time to process it. Eventually, the silence will be broken. Sometimes if we break the silence too quickly as leaders, we might miss out on great conversations!

# Building Community



- 1. Have a time of fun, and utilize the icebreaker.**
- 2. Take advantage of the fun outing for your group each mile.**
- 3. Make sure a portion of your time every week is spent over food.**  
Could be a snack or an actual meal. (Different conversation, life conversation tends to happen over food :) Plus it allows for topic conversation to be less distracted during the question or material portion of your group discussion.

# Shepherd Your Group



- Keep tabs on their prayer requests.
- Let the staff know if something big happens in their lives that we can help with.
- Love them through your words and actions, and be present in their life more than just that city group hour. We have a great opportunity as leaders to invest in others through our leadership role. Let's take a hold of it!

SECTION THREE

# Structure & Logistics

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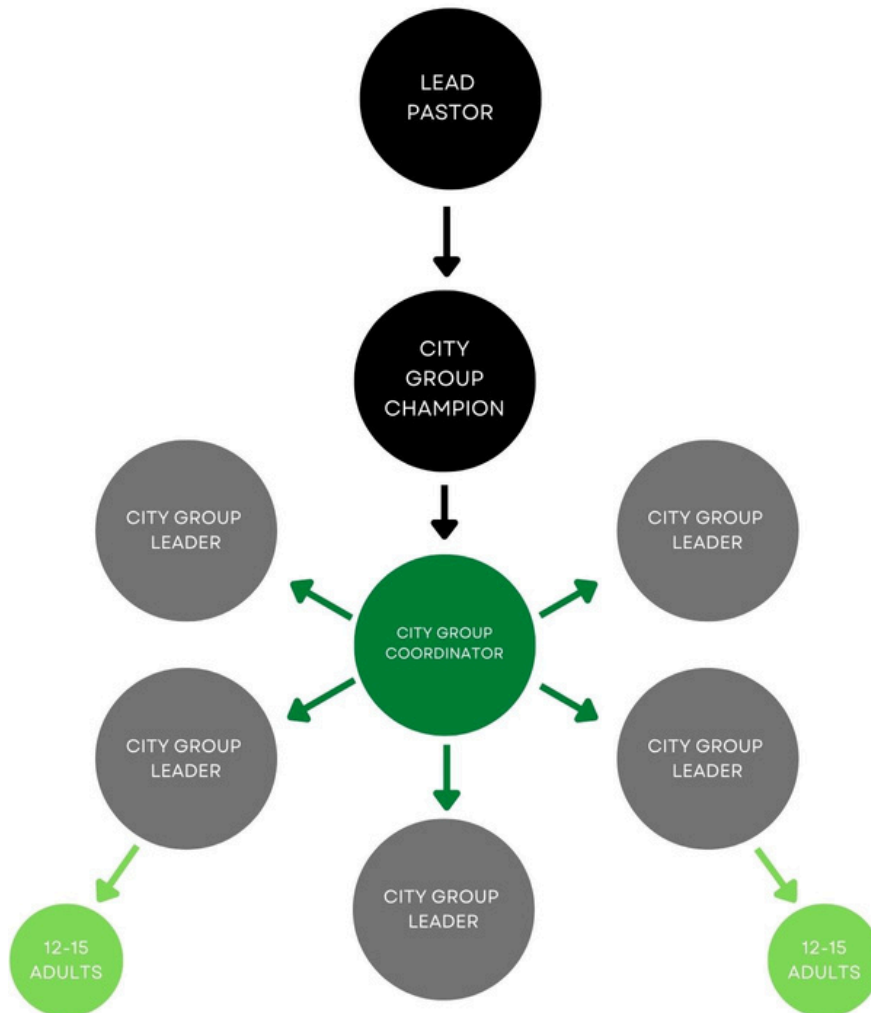
City Group Structure & Breakdown of Seasonal 'Miles'

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# City Group Structure



We have a Lead Pastor, a City Group Champion, a system of Coaches, our City Group Leaders, and then our City Groups. Each person in our leadership structure will minister two levels down. We ask for them to know the details in the lives of those one level down and to loosely know the details two levels down.

We ask that significant life events be communicated to the City Group Coordinator and City Group Champion so that we can celebrate, support, and pray with you.

# City Group Logistics

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1. *How many miles are in a year?*
  2. *Why do we have breaks between miles?*
  3. *What does a City Group launch look like?*
  4. *How do you select a study for the upcoming mile?*
  5. *What does it mean to update your roster in Planning Center?*

# Important Dates

## **GROUP SUNDAY**

September 8th

## **FALL MILE BEGINS**

Week of September 15th

## **FALL MILE ENDS**

Week of December 8th

## **CITY GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

Last week of Fall Mile

## **GROUP SIGN-UPS BEGIN**

January 5th

## **WINTER MILE BEGINS**

Week of January 12th

## **WINTER MILE ENDS**

Week of March 16th

## **GROUP SIGN-UPS BEGIN**

April 13th

## **SPRING MILE BEGINS**

Week of April 20th

## **SPRING MILE ENDS**

Week of July 13th



MILE CITY CHURCH

