

BoldYTH | BGroups

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR YOUR BGROUP! Spring 2024

BGROUP LEADERS

WHERE DO I START

INITIAL DECISION

1. **Decide the target focus of the group you would like to lead.**
 - a. *(examples: Jr. High girls, College guys, Young couples, etc.)*

CONNECT

2. **Connect with your Youth Director** to talk about the group you would like to lead this semester so they can set you up with the Planning Center Group for you.
3. **Edit your group info on Planning Center**
 - a. Editing time, date, & location
 - b. Adding in members you already know
 - c. Inserting a bio
 - d. Uploading a photo

PREPARE

1. **Pray for your group**
2. **Invest & Invite**
 - a. Use power of personal invitation
 - b. Hot Spots - Altar Call Ministry, Lobby Time, Friends & Family, Campus Pastor, Workplaces, Schools
3. **Follow up w/ reminders for your group**
4. **STEP OUT IN FAITH & LAUNCH THAT GROUP!!!!!!!**

BGROUP GUIDELINES

1. **Come prepared**
2. **Content - 20% Talking / 80% discussion**
3. **Keep it Kingdom**
4. **Include Prayer**
5. **Honor the Timeframe Set**
6. **Track Group Attendance & Members in PCO**

LEADING THE DISCUSSION

- **Start the conversation with something easy:** Always start light! Have a time of connection upfront. This can be an icebreaker, fun questions, or simple conversation. This is the way to gain connection & open the door for deeper and more meaningful conversations.
- **Don't be afraid to ask follow-up questions:** Be mindful of how the conversation is going. Ask more detailed questions that connect what everyone is saying. Follow-up questions can help them feel comfortable to express their thoughts.
- **Give space:** Give your questions breathing room in the group. Having a moment of silence isn't bad and can allow room for reflection.
- **Bring the focus back:** There are always going to be tangents. Allow them to happen, but follow your instincts to know when to bring the focus back on the discussion.
- **End every conversation on a good note:** Sometimes small group time ends at the most inconvenient moment. However, try not to end a small group of discussion on a somber note. Always have a moment of encouragement and strengthening before your small group ends.

BGROUP CULTURE

1. **Give room to celebrate**
 - a. *birthdays, praise reports, anniversaries, etc.*
2. **Engage outside of groups - include include include**
 - a. *sitting together on Sundays, lunch, games, projects*
3. **Make them feel known & heard**
 - a. *Names, 1st timer, interests, giftings or skills*

BGROUP GOALS

1. **Connected to community**
2. **Planted in the local church**
 - a. *attending Sundays, prayer, community events*
3. **Taking their next step in their walk with the Lord**
 - b. *saved, baptism, Next Steps, evangelism*
 - c. *serving on the A-Team*
4. **Empowered to launch and lead in purpose**

Matthew 28:19-20 NLT - *"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

INFORMING AND REPORTING

HOW TO HANDLE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

Unfortunately, sometimes students will go through difficult, even traumatic, situations. As a leader, you will become aware of others' personal lives, their families, and their struggles. Individuals do need to trust you and feel comfortable around you, but there always needs to be a key distinction: you are a **leader** to them first before being a **friend**. As a leader in BoldYTH and Bethany Young Adults, you are a **mandatory reporter** of **ANY and ALL** illegal activity as it pertains to students. Below are two distinct areas that require reporting.

Nonlegal Situations | Informing Parents and Legal Guardians

There are things that ***we are not legally required*** to report as a ministry, but in which we want to work with our students and their families. These are potentially problematic areas, such as students who are gambling, smoking, drinking, having suicidal thoughts, engaging in premarital sex, or putting themselves in potentially harmful situations.

Legally, as a church leadership team, we aren't required to report these things to authorities, but for those who are minors, we do want parents to be aware of them. Below we have outlined what a leader's process should look like when dealing with these issues.

Student Disclosure to a Leader

1. What you should do

- a. Inform your campus youth or young adult director. Usually, there is a buildup to the disclosure of serious issues. Keep your director apprised of the situation.
- b. If the situation takes a serious turn where the parents need to be notified, we will work with you to help the student communicate to their parents or legal guardian.
- c. When appropriate, in the 24-hour period after disclosure, we strongly encourage students to tell their parents or legal guardian what they have shared with a leader. Depending on the family and the situation, we always want the students to tell their parents what is going on. They have the option to do this in one of two ways:

- i. They can tell their parents alone, but we will follow up with their parents to make sure everything has been communicated properly.
- ii. They can tell their parents with a Bold leader present. The main goal here is to make sure there is open and honest communication from the student to the parents.

2. The follow-up

- a. Some students come from strong families with Christian values, but unfortunately, others do not. Regardless of a student's family background, we want to walk with them through the situations of life.
- b. Follow-up means walking with them when it's easy and also when it's tough. Even if the parental figure in the student's life does not care to be involved, we will still walk with our students in a godly fashion to exemplify the trustworthy and supportive people that God's church is.

***Note:** Always inform your campus youth director of situations students disclose to you that are of a serious nature as outlined above. When situations rise to this level of seriousness, you should not be the sole holder of information.*

Legal Situations and Authorities

Legal Situations

Unfortunately, some students will go through struggles and situations that require the authorities to be involved. This includes any type of abuse, abandonment, or major safety issues. **These situations have to be reported regardless of relationship and personal preference.** If you come across an issue like this, report it immediately to your youth director, and that director will help you report it to the proper authorities. Although your campus youth director will help, it is legally your responsibility to report abuse, neglect, or the immediate danger of a student. This should take place no longer than an hour after disclosure. If your campus youth director isn't available, please contact Pastor Eli Bonilla or your campus pastor immediately.