



Four Responsibilities

GROUPWORDS

Small Groups can be powerful places for Christians to grow. This is because, in smaller settings, care increases, accountability expands, commitment deepens, and involvement intensifies. In fact, in a small setting, for these **not** to occur, the people who make up the group, would have to literally ignore needs and pretend they don't hear or see. And it would be difficult to say they didn't notice the person who was literally standing next to them or sitting in the next chair. Nevertheless, the direction and often the character of a small group is determined by the leader. Think and pray about the following four responsibilities of the small group leader.

LEADING — You're the group leader. But do you really lead? Do you lead with your actions? Are you on time, prepared, and active in making your group members feel accepted? Do you lead with your attitudes? Are excitement, authenticity, and anticipation a part of your emotional disposition? How would your group members describe your leadership and influence? Do you lead with your expectations? Not just showing up but growing up is central to the life of a small group. And growing up is connected to expectations. What are the expectations of your Small Group?

LISTENING — Listen with more than your ears. Do more than hear voices. Communicate a listening compassion with your eyes. Affirm that you heard with appreciative words and comments made in the group discussion. Confirm that you understood by giving follow-up questions and comments. Use your whole body to send a clear message that says: *"I heard what you said and I want to hear more."*

LEARNING — Your group members will no doubt learn from you. But the group will take a positive step forward when they know that you, as the leader, are learning from them. Be a transparent and vulnerable leader, not an autocratic commander. Publicly tell your group what you have learned from them, and privately thank individual group members for their insight and help.

LOVING — The key is to love unconditionally! Do your group members see an unselfish lifestyle? It requires more than words to communicate love and commitment. It also takes sacrifice. What can you do, what can you say that will demonstrate sacrifice for the spiritual growth of your group?