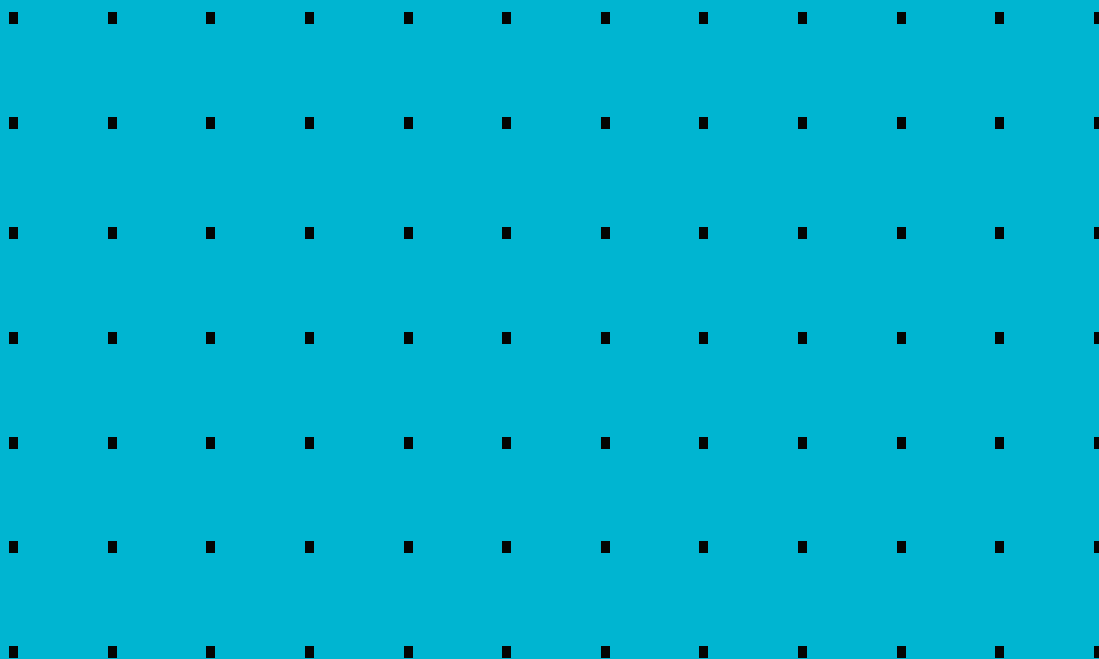


SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT LEADER'S GUIDE

Hope City



This Book Belongs to: _____

My Campus Director is: _____

My Hub Coordinator is: _____

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Spiritual Development

Leader Guide

Spiritual Development is a group using a curriculum from North Point Ministries by Clay Scroggins called Spiritual Growth. We have made some additions and adaptations to make it into a 6-week group.

The curriculum is a perfect entry-level group to lead for those who have never taught or have been co-leads and are ready for that Next Step. This would also be great for those who have come out of the Freedom Conference and want to gain some great experience as a group leader before leading their own Freedom Group. <https://www.righnowmedia.org/Content/Series/443416>

Week 1 - Meet and Greet Game Night

Week 2 - Session 1 - Journey

Week 3 - Session 2 - Process

Week 4 - Session 3 - Fuel

Week 5 - Serve Day - Group Missions Project

Week 6 - Session 4 - Next Steps

Below you will find the weekly schedule complete with game options, worship video links, teaching video links, and pray format options. There is also an email template included for welcoming your participants when they join.

If you have any other questions or need assistance, please reach out to your Coach or Hub Coordinator.

Week 1 - Get-To-Know-You Night

10 minutes: As people arrive:

- Have them make a name tag to wear. If you are virtual, ask them to put their full name on the screen and keep their cameras on.
- Put their snacks to share in the kitchen. If virtual, invite them to have coffee and snacks during your time together.
- Let them know where the restrooms are.
- If virtual, instruct your participants to keep their mic muted until they are ready to speak.

30-45 minutes: Group Time:

- Introductions: Starting with the leader(s), go around the room, introduce yourself, and share briefly about their life & Hope City story. If virtual, the leader needs to call them out until everyone gets a chance to participate.
- Ice Breaker/Game: Play a game of your choice. Here are some suggestions:
 - Heads Up!
(Download iPhone App)
(Download Android App)
 - Split the group into two teams.
 - Choose a game to play within the app. Instructions are included in the app for each game.
 - Choose a team to go first and choose one of their teammates to play first.
 - That group member will start playing, and the teams and players will take turns.
 - Designate someone to keep score for each team and announce the winning team at the end!
 - Kahoot! - <https://kahoot.com/>
 - Download for iPhone App
 - Download for Android App
 - For instructions on how to play, click [HERE](#)

- Would You Rather
 - Use the random 'Would You Rather' generator to ask each group member to answer the question.
 - This is not as much a game as it is a conversation starter.
 - Rather than going one by one, you can also ask everyone the same question simultaneously and simply have them hold up one finger or two to choose which answer they prefer.
 - Additional resource: <https://conversationstartersworld.com/would-you-rather-questions/>
- Trivia
 - Access the Random Trivia Generator and select a category to play within.
 - Split the group into two teams.
 - Designate a team member to track time and each team's score.
 - Designate a team and player to go first and read their question to them. Give each player 30 seconds to answer their question.
 - For each correct answer, their team gets a point!

10 minutes: Expectations

- Explain that this group will meet for six weeks at the designated date and time. The goal is to build relationships and encourage spiritual growth. Inform them that you will watch a video series for three weeks and that there is a study guide that they will need to print out and bring with them each week.

- July 10th is national Serve Day, but at Hope City, we have Serve Saturday projects available the first Saturday of each month. The intent is to do a project together using the Serve Day App. (iPhone, Android) Visit hopecity.com/serve for more information. For this week's group time, you can do either of the following:
 - Meet on your regular day/time to discuss and plan your project
 - Do not meet on your standard day/time and simply meet at the project you have chosen to do together.
- The final week is for your group to celebrate and invite members to Next Steps.
 - Have a picnic, swim party, potluck, etc., and celebrate how your group has grown relationally and spiritually. Celebrate by affirming in them what they've learned and experienced. Then invite them to Next Steps: baptism, serving on the Dream Team, or leading their own group.
- Ask if there are any questions.
- Delegate responsibilities. A great way to encourage ownership of the group and discover some Next Steps is to offer an opportunity for others to be responsible for various tasks within the group. Some examples include taking attendance, scheduling who is bringing refreshments, planning and running the ice breaker/game, etc.

20-30 minutes: Hang Out

- Thank everyone for coming. Pray over the food and any requests that were given. Remind everyone of next week's day/time.
- Enjoy a time of hanging out and go deeper into relationships. A great question to ask each other during this time is, "Tell me more about your Hope City story."

Week 2 - Video #1: Journey

- 20 minutes: welcome, refreshments
- 5 minutes: transition from Kitchen to the Living Room
- 10 minutes: Ice Breaker - The Maturing Game: <https://groupleaders.org/curriculum-feed/maturing-game>
- 7-10 minutes: Worship:
 - Father's House - https://youtu.be/H_PfrdLqh1c (4:45)
 - Over Again - <https://youtu.be/ZVlaPebkVlc> (5:28)
- 15 minutes: Video: Journey
 - <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/content/series/443416?episode=1>
- 15 minutes: Discussion questions
- 10 minutes: Prayer
 - Option 1: go around the room, ask for prayer requests, and then have someone pray over them altogether.
 - Option 2: break into smaller gender groups of 2-4 and pray over each other's requests.
 - Option 3: Go around the room and have each person pray over the person's need to their right (or left).
- Depending on the time, you can invite people to hang out for more fellowship or games. Just give them a time limit of when to leave.

VIDEO RECAP

How would you explain “spiritual growth”?

One of them [the Pharisees], an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

-Matthew 22:35–40

Jesus' Top Two

1. Love God.
2. Love your _____.

That's what spiritual growth is. But if anyone obeys [Jesus'] word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

-1 John 2:5–6

If you want to know how someone is loving God, look at how they treat other people.

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know you are my disciples.

-John 13:34–35

The goal is growth in Three Vital Relationships

1. _____ with God
2. Community with Insiders
3. Influence with _____.

Practicing the Three Vital Relationships leads to spiritual growth.

This is our vision at Hope City: to Love God, Love People, and Change the World.

Definition: Spiritual growth is the process of growing your faith in God and your love for others.

Answer Key:

- neighbor
- intimacy
- outsiders

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. Prior to watching the video for this session, how would you have defined “spiritual growth”? How did you come up with that definition?
 2. During the message, Clay said, “If you want to know how someone is loving God, look at how they treat other people.” Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
 3. When it comes to your own spiritual growth, in which of the Three Vital Relationships do you currently devote most of your attention? In which do you devote the least?
 4. In what area of your life do you find it challenging put your faith in God? Why is it difficult for you to trust him?
 5. Take a few minutes to write down the name of a person or group of people do you find difficult to get along with.
-

Now, write down three things you can do to love that person or group as you love yourself.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What are some things that stand in the way of you doing any or all of those three things?

THIS WEEK, THINK ABOUT . . .

Spiritual growth is the process of growing your faith in God and your love for others. What is one thing you can do this week to put your trust in God? What is one thing you can do to demonstrate love for another person?

PRAYER

God, help me to trust you more deeply in all aspects of my life. Give me the wisdom and patience to see other people as you see them, and to treat them the way I would want to be treated.

Week 3 - Video - Process

- 20 minutes: welcome, refreshments
- 5 minutes: transition from Kitchen to the Living Room
- 10 minutes: Ice Breaker Game (refer to suggestions from Week 1 or create your own)
- 7-10 minutes: Worship:
 - Egypt - <https://youtu.be/-L0Rf3WE4HY> (4:50)
 - You Keep On Getting Better - https://youtu.be/1LPqv_KIG9A (6:09)
- 12 minutes: Video - Process - <https://www.righnowmedia.org/content/series/443416?episode=2>
- 15 minutes: Discussion questions
- 10 minutes: Prayer
 - Option 1: go around the room, ask for prayer requests, and then have someone pray over them altogether.
 - Option 2: break into smaller gender groups of 2-4 and pray over each other's requests.
 - Option 3: Go around the room and have each person pray over the person's need to their right (or left).
- Depending on the time, you can invite people to hang out for more fellowship or games. Just give them a time limit of when to leave.

VIDEO RECAP

Who is responsible for your spiritual growth?

- Your group isn't responsible for your spiritual growth.
They support the process of your growth by promoting _____, belonging, and care.
- Your group leader isn't responsible for your spiritual growth.
He or she encourages the process of your growth by promoting your participation in the group.
- The _____ isn't responsible for your spiritual growth.
It is your partner in the process.

You are responsible for your spiritual growth.

To own your spiritual growth:

- Stay _____.
- Remain curious.
- _____ a step.

The Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith

1. Practical Teaching
2. Providential Relationships
3. Private Disciplines
4. Personal Ministry
5. Pivotal Circumstances

You will not _____ find what you don't _____ pursue.

Answer Key:

- accountability
- church
- engaged
- take
- passively
- actively

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS ASSESSMENT

If you haven't done so as a group, it can be helpful to take the Spiritual Pathways Assessment before discussing the video. It's a video-based assessment that helps you identify some of the ways you best connect with God. The assessment takes about 12 minutes. You can find everything you need at: groupleaders.org/spiritual-pathways-activity

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 meaning "not at all" and 10 meaning "completely," to what extent do you currently own the process of your spiritual growth? Why did you answer the way you did?

2. During the message, Clay said, “If we’re never challenged, we can’t grow.” Talk about a time when you were challenged beyond your talent, training, or experience. How did you grow as a result?
3. Did anything Clay said during the message change the way you view this group? If so, what?
4. Talk about a time when God used one of the Five Things to grow your faith. How was God active during that period of growth? What actions did you take?
5. What can you do this week to stay engaged, remain curious, or take a specific next step in your spiritual growth? Jot down some ideas in the space that follows.

How can this group support you?

THIS WEEK, THINK ABOUT . . .

You own your spiritual growth. If you’re still wondering about your best next step in growing, take another look at the list of Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith. Is there anything you can do to more actively pursue one of the Five Things?

PRAYER

Father in heaven, I recognize that I own the process of my spiritual growth. Thank you for taking an active part in that growth. Guide me as I take next steps toward growing my trust in you.

Week 4 - Video #3 Fuel

- 20 minutes: welcome, refreshments
- 5 minutes: transition from Kitchen to the Living Room
- 10 minutes: Ice Breaker Game (refer to suggestions from week 1 or create your own)
- 7-10 minutes: Worship:
 - Champion - <https://youtu.be/IUN7R74rrXY> (5:08)
 - Nothing Else - https://youtu.be/1LPqv_KIG9A (5:42)
- 115.5 minutes: Video - Fuel - <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/content/series/443416?episode=3>
- 15 minutes: Discussion questions
- 10 minutes: Prayer
 - Option 1: go around the room, ask for prayer requests, and then have someone pray over them altogether.
 - Option 2: break into smaller gender groups of 2-4 and pray over each other's requests.
 - Option 3: Go around the room and have each person pray over the person's need to their right (or left).
- Depending on the time, you can invite people to hang out for more fellowship or games. Just give them a time limit of when to leave.

VIDEO RECAP

Curiosity is the most powerful ingredient in spiritual growth.

- Knowing _____ God is important.
- Knowing God is more important.

Curiosity about God can deepen your relationship with God.

Be Curious About God

- Choose to _____.
- Seek understanding.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”
-Isaiah 55:9

If we're not challenged, we don't change.

Be Curious About Others

- Reserve _____.
- Ask questions.

Be Curious About Yourself

- Challenge your assumptions.
- _____ feedback.

There are things you don't know about you that other people do know about you.

Curiosity fuels spiritual growth.

Answer Key:

- about
- trust
- judgment
- seek

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

1. During the message, Clay said, “Curiosity is the most powerful ingredient in spiritual growth.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. Is your current relationship with God based mostly on what you know about him or on knowing him? What are some ways you can connect relationally with your heavenly Father?
3. What are some characteristics of a person who is curious about others?
4. Use one or more of the following scenarios to explore what it looks like to respond to others with humility and curiosity.

Scenario 1

A friend shares that his mother died two years ago after a long bout with cancer. He doesn't know how a good God could have let her suffer the way she did or why she would die even though she was a good person while bad people continue to live. How would you respond to what your friend said?

Scenario 2

A co-worker asks if you think she should pursue a promotion that has become available at work. She has strong business and leadership skills, but lacks self-awareness. For example, she sometimes says things that hurt other people's feelings and doesn't seem to notice. You think the promotion will include responsibilities she's not quite ready to handle. How do you respond to her inquiry?

Scenario 3

An acquaintance that knows you're involved in church opens up about the important role meditation has played in his spiritual journey. He says that he's a Christian because he definitely believes in Jesus, but that he also considers himself a Buddhist. How do you respond?

5. Talk about a time when you learned something about yourself that you didn't previously know. How did it change the way you thought about yourself? How did it influence your behavior moving forward?

THIS WEEK, THINK ABOUT . . .

What is one thing you can do this week to practice curiosity about God?

About other people?

About yourself?

How can this group support and encourage you as you take action?

PRAYER

God, help me to seek to better understand you, to ask other people questions instead of making snap judgments, and to continually seek feedback so I can better understand myself

Week 5 - Serve Day - (July 10th, 2021)

- This week's Group meeting is optional since you will be serving together.
- July 10th is Serve Day, and the intent is to do a project together using the Serve Day App. (iPhone, Android) For this week's group time, you can do either of the following
 - Meet on your regular day/time to discuss and plan your project
 - Do not meet on your standard day/time and simply meet at the project you have chosen to do together.

* If your group meetings do not coincide with National Serve Day, Hope City still has mission projects always at the ready. Please refer to the APP or contact your Coach if you need assistance in finding a project or creating your own.

For additional reasources please visit <https://hopecity.com/serve/>

Week 6 - Next Steps - Baptism, DT, Groups, Missions

- 20 minutes: welcome, refreshments
- 5 minutes: transition from Kitchen to the Living Room
- 10 minutes: Ice Breaker Game (refer to suggestions from week 1 or create your own)
- 7-10 minutes: Worship:
 - Never Lost - <https://youtu.be/gtaSlpT3Ucw> (4:57)
 - Promises - <https://youtu.be/eX0kjqVKTSw> (6:47)
- Teaching - 10min
 - NEXT STEPS teaching (Live)
- 15 minutes: Discussion questions
- 10 minutes: Prayer
 - Option 1: go around the room, ask for prayer requests, and then have someone pray over them altogether.
 - Option 2: break into smaller gender groups of 2-4 and pray over each other's requests.
 - Option 3: Go around the room and have each person pray over the person's need to their right (or left).
- Depending on the time, you can invite people to hang out for more fellowship or games. Just give them a time limit of when to leave.

Next Steps Teaching

ASK: What was your big takeaway from participating in the Serve Day project? Review the prior three weeks.

Remind your participants of discussions you had during the three weeks of videos. Quickly hit some of the highlights of what you learned and experienced.

Our faith grows with every step we take. Regardless of how long we have been a believer, we all have a next step. The question we face now is "What is my next step?"

Share your Next Steps story...when you became a Christian, committed to a local church, got water Baptized, joined a Group, started serving on a Dream Team, and served at a Mission project (3-5 minutes).

Growth Track

Growth Track is our two-step course designed to help you learn more about Hope City, discover your purpose, and take your next step to make a difference in the lives of those around you.

Water Baptism

Baptism is an important step of obedience that shows others we have personally trusted Jesus for our salvation. Jesus was baptized when He was on the earth, and we do this to follow His example. When Christians are baptized, they are submerged under water to identify with the death and burial of Jesus and raised out of the water to identify with His resurrection. We believe that water baptism is a public declaration of three important things: you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you are beginning a changed life in Christ, and you are part of a new family.

Dream Team

Hope City would not be possible without the incredible volunteers that serve on our Dream Team every week. Whether you have the gift of playing an instrument, hospitality, administration, photography, planning events, or working with children, there is sure to be a team that fits you!

Groups

Connect Groups provide a place to grow in your faith, create life-long relationships, and connect with people who you can do life with.

Discussion

What is YOUR Next Step? Allow each person an opportunity to respond.

Welcome Email

You can use the email template below to connect with your group members; just customize it to be relevant to your group.

Hello *Insert Name*,

Thanks for joining our Spiritual Development Connect Group. I know that making spiritual growth a priority can be a struggle. When we do finally put the time aside, the question then becomes, “So what am I supposed to do?” We believe that life change happens in the context of relationships, and together we will strive to build spiritual habits and take Next Steps in our faith. Each week you can expect that we will have fun playing games, worshiping, watching a short video, and engaging in some great discussions.

Please mark your calendars for every _____ at _____, starting on _____. Bring your favorite snack to share and we will provide the drinks (coffee, sweet tea, water, etc.). Our address is _____.

(If you are meeting virtually, include the Zoom or Google Meeting link instead of a physical address.)

We can’t wait to meet you! If there is anything that you need before then, my contact info is below.

P.S. No childcare is provided, and we do have a friendly, medium-sized dog. **(Include any relevant information guests should know, such as parking information, pets, etc.)**

Your Name
Email Address
Cell Number