

HOW → TO  
INCREASE *your*  
INFLUENCE

SMALL GROUP  
*Host Guide*

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# Hello Leader!

## It's through good works that we influence the culture!

Thank you for saying “yes” to leading a small group this semester. Your decision is leading people to a God who is for them and helping them discover His purpose for their life. At Church on the Rock, we believe that the most important things in life aren't things—they are relationships. By leading a small group, you are creating a space where those relationships can grow and flourish.

This semester, we are diving into a powerful teaching series: How to Increase Your Influence. Together, we'll explore what it means to live a life of purpose, impact, and significance. Through the ministry of good works, we'll learn how kindness, intentionality, and service can transform lives and open hearts to Christ.

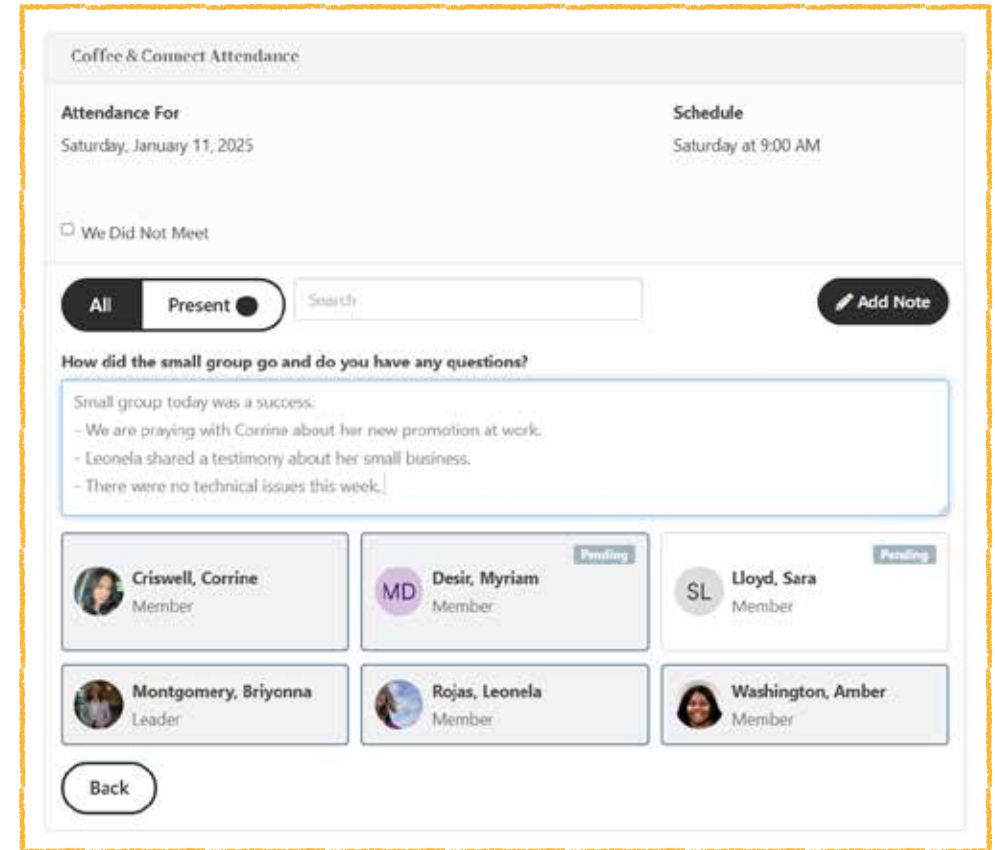
Your influence matters! The good works we do are not only connected to our God-given destiny but also have the power to change the world around us. Week by week, we'll discover how simple acts of kindness can open doors, build bridges, and make a lasting impact—for this world and the next.

I pray that your group time will be filled with life-changing conversations and that every person who joins will be inspired by the Holy Spirit to see their potential to influence the world for Christ. Let's imagine big and embrace the opportunities God gives us to make a difference!

Thank you for your leadership and dedication.

God is for you!  
Pastor David Blunt

## SMALL GROUP REPORT EXAMPLE



The screenshot shows a digital report form for a small group. At the top, it says "Coffee & Connect Attendance". Below that, there are two columns: "Attendance For" with the date "Saturday, January 11, 2025" and "Schedule" with "Saturday at 9:00 AM". There is a checkbox for "We Did Not Meet" which is unchecked. Below this is a filter section with "All" and "Present" buttons, a search bar, and an "Add Note" button. A text box asks "How did the small group go and do you have any questions?" and contains the following text: "Small group today was a success. - We are praying with Corrine about her new promotion at work. - Leonela shared a testimony about her small business. - There were no technical issues this week." Below the text box is a grid of member cards. Each card shows a profile picture, name, and role. Some cards have a "Pending" label in the top right corner. The members are: Criswell, Corrine (Member), Desir, Myriam (Member, Pending), Lloyd, Sara (Member, Pending), Montgomery, Briyonna (Leader), Rojas, Leonela (Member), and Washington, Amber (Member). A "Back" button is at the bottom left.

\*To eliminate confusion when managing your roster, we suggest to keep members pending until they show up to your group.

# Week ONE



**We are Called to INFLUENCE the Culture through GOOD WORKS.**

\*We are created for a purpose, on purpose, to fulfill God's purpose!

## GOOD WORKS = RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

<sup>13</sup>Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

<sup>14</sup>Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

<sup>15</sup>Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

<sup>16</sup>Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

<sup>18</sup>For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 5:13-18 | KJV

## Discussion

1 What does it mean to you personally to influence others as salt and light in your current environment? Can you share a specific example where you felt you made a positive impact?

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2 Pastor mentioned common doubts people have about their ability to influence (e.g., not having the personality, resources, or connections). What barriers or doubts have you experienced about your ability to make a difference? How does the concept of "good works" help you overcome those doubts?

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3 What is one intentional act of kindness you can commit to this week to be salt and light?

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## This WEEK

1 During this small group session, we challenge you each week to be intentional and do one random act of kindness!

2 Invite a friend to join you next week at your Small Group.

# Week TWO



**Good Works are a MUST  
to fulfill your DESTINY**

\*Good works display the fruit of the spirit.

**OUR RELATIONSHIPS DETERMINE OUR ACHIEVEMENTS.**

**OUR FRIENDS DETERMINE OUR FUTURE.**

**WE ARE THE AVERAGE OF THE 5 CLOSEST PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES.**

<sup>10</sup>We have become his poetry, a re-created people that will fulfill the destiny he has given each of us, for we are joined to Jesus, the Anointed One. Even before we were born, God planned in advance our destiny and the good works we would do to fulfill it!

Ephesians 2:10 | TPT

## Discussion

1 / Reflect on the five closest people in your life. How are they influencing your direction, growth, and achievements? Are there any adjustments you feel led to make in your relationships to better align with God's purpose for your life?

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2 / Can you share an experience in which a small act of kindness had a significant impact on someone else or opened doors in your own life?

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3 / Pastor talked about living a life of no regrets, fulfilling your purpose, and hearing God say, "Well done." What steps can you take this week to walk toward your destiny, incorporating kindness, service, or intentional acts to make a lasting impact?

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## This WEEK

1 Take some time this week to evaluate your 5 closest friends. Start by asking yourself these 2 questions:

- Do they inspire me to grow spiritually, emotionally, and personally?
- Do they speak truth into my life with love, hold me accountable when needed, and celebrate my wins without envy?

2 Learn more about the XO Conference happening at Church on the Rock on February 21 and 22 at [cotr.org/xo](http://cotr.org/xo).

# Week THREE



## Look for OPPORTUNITIES to do good works

\*What you look for, you will eventually find.

### OPPORTUNITIES ARE COMING TO YOU OR BY YOU EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE.

<sup>14</sup>Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Titus 2:14 | KJV

### DON'T JUST LIVE TODAY, MAKE TODAY COUNT!

<sup>14</sup>Who gave Himself on our behalf that He might redeem us (purchase our freedom) from all iniquity and purify for Himself a people [to be peculiarly His own, people who are] eager and enthusiastic about [living a life that is good and filled with] beneficial deeds.

Titus 2:14 | AMP

### THROUGH GOOD WORKS, YOU GAIN FAVOR!

<sup>27</sup>He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.

Proverbs 11:27 | KJV

# Discussion

1 Pastor emphasizes that "what I'm looking for, I eventually find." How can you train yourself to look for opportunities to do good works in your daily life? What are some simple ways we can show kindness in our workplace or personal life?

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2 Titus 2:14 calls us to be "eager and enthusiastic" about good works. What does being eager and enthusiastic look like in your current season of life? What are some practical ways you can show this attitude in your workplace, school, or family?

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3 Can you recall a time when showing kindness or going the extra mile brought unexpected favor or opportunities in your life?

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## This WEEK

- 1 Do one random act of kindness this week!
- 2 Invite a friend to join you next week at your Small Group.

# Week FOUR



## You can take Good Works with you to Heaven

\***Good works are not for people, they're for God!**

<sup>13</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Revelation 14:13 | KJV

### WHAT I DO NOW DETERMINES MY ROLE, MY RESPONSIBILITY, AND MY REWARD IN HEAVEN!

**Our good works follow us to Heaven.**

<sup>12</sup> And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Revelation 22:12 | KJV

# Discussion

1 / Revelation 14:13 teaches that our good works follow us to Heaven. How does knowing this change your perspective on acts of kindness and generosity?

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2 / Reflect on a time when you performed good works that benefited others but received no gratitude or acknowledgment in return. How did you respond in that situation? After hearing Pastor's teaching, how might your response differ today?

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3 / What are some challenges you've faced in staying consistent with good works? How can this group encourage you to remain faithful in your generosity?

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## This WEEK

1 Do one random act of kindness this week!

2 Invite a friend to join you next week at your Small Group.

# Week **FIVE**



## You can WIN people to Christ through Good Works

<sup>1</sup> Laboring together [as God’s fellow workers] with Him then, we beg of you not to receive the grace of God in vain [that merciful kindness by which God exerts His holy influence on souls and turns them to Christ, keeping and strengthening them—do not receive it to no purpose].

**2 Corinthians 6:1 | AMP**

### **INFLUENCE THROUGH KINDNESS!**

**Our good works follow us to Heaven.**

<sup>12</sup> Live honorable lives as you mix with unbelievers, even though they accuse you of being evildoers. For they will see your beautiful works and have a reason to glorify God in the day he visits us.

**1 Peter 2:12 | TPT**

## Discussion

1 What are three practical ways you can show kindness to someone in your family, workplace, or community this week?

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2 Does knowing your acts of kindness affect someone’s life in eternity shift your mindset on acts of kindness?

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## *This* WEEK

1 Choose a specific friend, coworker, or family member, and intentionally show them kindness through your good works this week.

2 Invite a friend to sit with you in service this Sunday!



# Week SIX



**The ministry of Good Works will bring your Dreams to pass**

*"You can have everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want." Zig Ziglar*

**BE INTENTIONAL AND BLESS OTHERS DAILY.**

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST THROUGH RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS.**

**LEAVE PEOPLE BETTER THAN YOU FOUND THEM.**

<sup>14</sup>So then, as occasion and opportunity open up to us, let us do good [morally] to all people [not only being useful or profitable to them, but also doing what is for their spiritual good and advantage]. Be mindful to be a blessing, especially to those of the household of faith [those who belong to God's family with you, the believers].

**Galatians 6:10 | AMP**

<sup>8</sup>Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

**Ephesians 6:8 | KJV**

**WHAT I MAKE HAPPEN FOR OTHERS, GOD WILL MAKE HAPPEN FOR ME!**

## Discussion

1 Are the people around us better because of us? Are we adding value to their lives?

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2 How has this semester impacted your life?

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3 How can we continue to implement what we have learned for the weeks and months to come?

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## This WEEK

- 1 Create a daily "Good Works" checklist. Write down three simple ways you can add value to someone's life.
- 2 Send an encouraging message to at least one person each week with a personal text, email, or phone call. Let them know they're appreciated.

# IDEAS TO HELP PEOPLE GROW

- Invite them to sit with you in a Sunday Service.
- Share your personal story and what God has been teaching you.
- Share how God is for You Classes can help them grow and encourage them to join a team.
- Invite them to check out the COTR Backstage podcast ([backstage.cotr.org](http://backstage.cotr.org)).
- Invite them to be water baptized (encourage your Small Group to be there).
- Share your spiritual habits; how you find time regularly to pray, worship, and read God's Word. Encourage them to make their own time with God.
- Invite them to come to special events at COTR.
- Tell them about our COTR Website, COTR App, and One Year Bible reading plan.
  - Watch past messages
  - Give
  - Stay connected
- If they are ready to receive Christ, offer to pray with them.
  - Ask God to forgive you of your sins (Romans 6:23, Romans 3:10, Titus 3:5-7)
  - Believe Jesus is God's Son and died for humanity (1 John 4:15, John 1:1,14, Romans 5:8)
  - Confess Jesus is Lord of your life (Matthew 10:32, Romans 10:9)
  - Declare that you are filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8)
- **Example Prayer:**  
*"Heavenly Father, I repent. I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, He died for me and He rose again. Jesus, come into my heart. I receive you now as my Lord and my Savior. Fill me with the Holy Spirit. Take my life and make a difference. Amen."*

# TIPS / TOOLS

- **When is childcare available?**  
We have childcare available on campus on Saturday afternoons at 2pm and Sunday mornings during our 11am service.
- **Where can I host my Small Group?**  
You can host online, at church, and off site. Some of the most common meeting places are homes, restaurants, parks, coffee shops, and office buildings.
- **What are things we avoid in Small Groups?**
  - Self-promotion
  - Take offerings
  - Unapproved materials or speakers
  - Controversial topics and politics
- **How to prepare for your group?**
  - Arrive early
  - Creating the right environment
  - Test and have video ready
  - Welcome everyone
  - Warm up the group with an ice breaker (Tell me about your week)
  - Discuss this week's questions
  - Ask for prayer requests
  - Pray
  - Encourage them to grow (look at ideas to help people grow)
- **What should I do if someone asks a question I can't answer?**  
It's okay to not have all the answers. Thankfully, we can find guidance through prayer, God's Word, and the Holy Spirit. Encourage them to spend time reading the Bible and praying. Also, let them know that you will do your best to get some information and get back with them at your next Small Group meeting. Do some personal research and call your Coach to get advice.
- **Questions to ask yourself when your group attendance is inconsistent:**
  - Does the meeting day/time work for everybody?
  - Are you doing everything you can as a leader to help people engage outside the group?
  - Are you texting them?
  - Have you connected with them on a personal level? (Anniversary, birthdays, trips)
  - Have you asked members for feedback?
- **How do I get my group serving?**  
Encourage your group to get plugged into the Dream Team, by leading the way, talking about it, and inviting them to start by attending God is for You Classes.
- **What should I do if someone in my group shares something with me (or the group) that requires attention beyond what I (or we) can provide?**  
If you encounter a difficult situation within your Small Group, please know that you are not alone. If a member is going through a crisis, you can rally the group around them to provide prayer and encouragement. Use wisdom and be sensitive to the situation. If you are unsure of what to do, don't hesitate to ask your Coach. Also, you and/or the group member can call the church office to the Small Groups Department at 636-294-7841 if needed.
- **Need a tip we didn't cover?**  
Contact your Coach, they are there to serve you.

# SMALL GROUP HOST EXPECTATIONS

## GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- Complete God is for You Classes
- Complete Background Check.
- Fill out Small Group online form (day, time, location).
- Attend and have your picture taken at the Small Group Training.
- Connect with your coach.  
My coach's name:  
My coach's contact info:
- Be open and honest with your group.
- Love your group well.
  - Pray for them
  - Lead them in discussion
  - Be full of grace
  - Invite members to attend every week
- Recruit members.
- Fill out your weekly report after each group meeting.
- Plan a party for the group's final meeting.
- Prioritize Sunday mornings (worship one, serve one).
- Contact those who sign up, introduce yourself, and share with them what to expect.
- Follow 70/30 Rule (70% of the group should talk / 30% of leadership should talk).
- Keep discussion positive (avoid politics, divisive issues, and negative talk).
- Respect boundaries (men minister to men and ladies minister to ladies).
- Serve at Small Group Rally by connecting with people and inviting them to sign up at [cotr.org/groups](http://cotr.org/groups) for a Small Group.
- Stay up to date and connected to the culture by listening to the COTR Backstage podcast ([backstage.cotr.org](http://backstage.cotr.org)).

## ZOOM EXPECTATIONS

- Make sure to have a computer or laptop (iPad or tablet will not work).
- Select a separate day with your coach or co-leader to test Zoom and Pastor's video.
- If you have trouble with your internet while playing the video from the website, use the special link to download the videos onto your computer.
- Arrive on Zoom 15 minutes before starting time.
- Make sure you have emailed and texted each person in your group the Zoom link.
- If your group is meeting over 40 minutes, we recommend you purchase a Zoom subscription (but not required).
- Make sure to keep your camera on and facing you so your group can see you the entire time.
- Lead your group in a room that has good lighting where your group can see you.
- Encourage them if possible to put their camera on so you can see each other.

## ONSITE (AT CHURCH) EXPECTATIONS

- Come early to prepare your room.
- Make sure lights are on in the room and everywhere your group will be (halls and areas near bathrooms).
- Leave the room as you found it (If you need to move chairs or tables, take a picture so you can put it back in the right spot).
- Take the trash out after your group finishes.
- Leave things better than you found them.
- Stay on time with your group (keep in mind that there could be a meeting right before or after your group).
- If something feels or looks wrong, please make a staff member aware immediately.
- Do not allow children to attend your group. Please utilize childcare (on Saturdays and Sundays).
- If an incident happens, please inform COTR staff member present and write up an incident report and also please contact your Small Group Coach immediately after your group.
- Avoid being alone with just one person at any time.

## OFFSITE EXPECTATIONS

- Must have enough parking at the site for the people to attend.
- Make sure there's no object near the activity that can cause harm to anyone or cause any damage.
- Keep your pets contained and away from people to avoid bites and/or allergic reactions.
- The site must look like our church culture. House must be clean, no obscene pictures, or improper music.
- Avoid being alone with just one person at any time.
- Provide a private room for one person to change clothes (if needed for activity).
- Do not allow children to attend unless you have childcare staff member and approval from church leadership.
- If an incident happens, please write up an incident report and contact your Small Group Coach after your group.