



# SURFACE TO SOUL

Live Well | Lead Well | Coach Well

## Forming Faith Through Small Groups

### TRANSFORMATIONAL SMALL GROUPS

Small groups provide intimate settings for building significant relationships, affirming each other's gifts, and expressing one's faith. Our desire is to help small group leaders find ways to make their settings intentionally faith forming, transformational experiences. We will demonstrate weekly worship settings by Four Keying (Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions) every gathering.

In congregational settings, gatherings such as meetings, band and choir practices, and service groups often get overlooked as small group settings. We recognize these gatherings as opportunities to form faith everyday, everywhere. Likewise, we view families and households as legitimate small group settings where faith is forming activities abound on a daily basis.

### WAYS FAITH PRACTICES WILL BE WOVEN INTO SMALL GROUP SETTINGS

#### CARING CONVERSATIONS

- At the start of a meeting, include time to check-in and have Caring Conversations.
- Use questions found in books such as If, Talk Triggers, or Would You Rather.
- Use questions from downloadable resources listed in the Faith Formation Tools section of the website.
- Share responses to questions listed on *Taking Faith Home* inserts.
- Have young people teach a Caring Conversation practice they're learning in Sunday School or in confirmation.

#### DEVOTIONAL PRACTICES

- Read one of the Scripture passages found in the weekly *Taking Faith Home* insert.
- Identify a scripture passage that you regularly read as a family (i.e. Colossians 3:12-17).
- As a family or small group, listen to a sermon via a podcast.
- Teach households ways to engage in Lectio Divina or Examen devotional practices.
- Watch a Christian music video clip via YouTube or iTunes.
- Discuss the pastor's sermon during a Sunday meal.
- Participate in monthly home-based book discussions and/or Bible studies.
- As a family or small group, read one of the Bible stories highlighted in the Spark Bible.
- Discuss the pastor's weekly blog postings in the car or during meal times.
- Create and regularly review a list of people that you're regularly praying for.

#### SERVANT OPPORTUNITIES

- View household chores as opportunities to serve friends and family members.
- As a family or small group, plan a servant event to participate in each month.
- Send two Birthday, Get Well, or Thinking of You cards to people every week.
- Identify a mission project you jointly agree to financially support each month.

#### MEANINGFUL RITUALS & TRADITIONS

- Celebrate Birthdays, making them significant and sacred moments.
- Provide households and small groups For Everything a Season to recognize family milestones such as a member starting a new career, the family moving into a new home, the death of a pet, or a family member getting a driver's license.



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