

**GROUP
PRE-FLIGHT TOOL
CHASE OAKS CHURCH**



GETTING READY FOR TAKE-OFF

A great group knows where it is going. There is a compelling goal that inspires friends to jump onboard for the season ahead.

As we begin another group semester, this tool is designed to help you, **dream, clarify, and refine** your group's plan. You don't need to turn this in – it's simply a resource to help you plan well.

So, as you **scroll through this tool**, grab some paper, a pen, or use your device's notepad feature, and for the next few minutes, we'll guide you to:

1

Assess Current Reality: Where are people at in their lives and faith journeys in your group?

2

Narrow Your Focus: Name a growth goal or two that will specifically help your group move forward toward greater faith, hope, and love this semester.

3

Find a Great Group Study: With your goal(s) in mind, we'll help you think through which study will be best.

4

Register Your Group: Finally, we'll explain the way you let us know your group's details in time for open enrollment.

ASSESS

CURRENT REALITY

1

Write out **names** of people in your **group last season**. Also, write out the names of anyone you'd like to **invite to join** your group.

2

Look at the names on your list. How would you describe each person's current reality (where is there **momentum, stagnation, frustration, and fear** in their life and walk with Jesus)?

3

Think about your group as a whole. What are some **common challenges** you all are facing this season?

4

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = stale/stagnant; 5 = vibrant/dynamic), how would you **rate the state** of your group at the end of last semester? Why?

NARROW YOUR FOCUS

A group at Chase Oaks is a small gathering of **friends** committed to taking **next steps together** in their relationship with Jesus. What does that look like? It means growing in **faith, hope, and love**.

FAITH

Gaining more and more confidence that Jesus is who He said He is, and He did what He said He would do; understanding and applying God's Word better; addressing tricky questions and doubts together.

HOPE

Seeing the world the way Jesus sees it and finding our role in His vision of redemption and reconciliation; discovering gifts and strengths to build the Kingdom; finding hope in the middle of chaos.

LOVE

Living out the two greatest commandments – loving God and loving others; learning to love people the way Jesus loved; building stronger relationships, families, and friends through our words and actions.

1

If your group focused on **one area** (faith, hope, love) this season, which one would you choose and why?

2

At the end of the semester, what would you hope to be true of your group? Look at the following **goals** as examples. What are one or two you'd have for your group (or add your own)?

- Get new blood and energy – we've been lacking it.
- Become better friends – more authentic, committed, loving, and consistent.
- Develop relational skills – improve our marriages, parenting styles, communication.
- Go to the next level in our relationship with God – dive into His Word and apply it
- Help each other through difficult circumstances
- Have more fun as a group. Let's face it: we've gotten stale and a bit boring.
- Help each other discover giftings and strengths – and start using them.
- Encouraging each other – we need wind in our sails.
- Empower leadership. We know we've got several future leaders in our group.
- Share our stories and testimonies with one another. It's been a while since we've done that.
- There are some problematic and troubling issues brewing. We need to address those in a loving way.
- _____
- _____

NARROW YOUR FOCUS

3

The Homework Question. Be honest, how much work in-between sessions would your group members be willing to do: **None, some,** or a **good amount** if it's worthwhile?

4

Pray. Pause for a moment. Pray for each person on your list, and your group as a whole. Ask God to give you **wisdom** on how you can best encourage your group to deepen friendships and take next steps in their faith journeys.

5

Your Top 3. Now look at the list of group resources for the fall semester. You can find that at chaseoaks.org/groups (scroll down to "leader resources" and select "Fall Resources"). Based on your answers above, what three choices stand out to you the most?

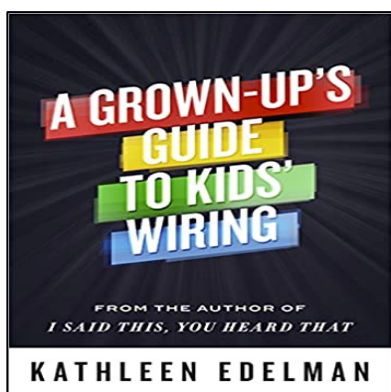
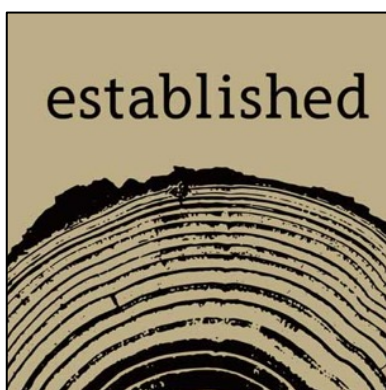
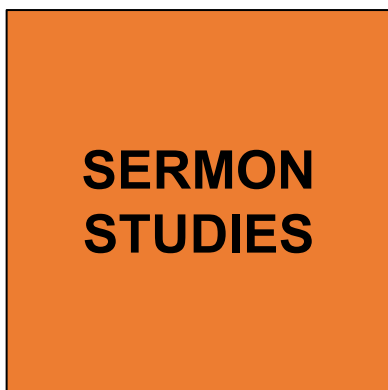
6

Process with somebody else. Finally, talk about your observations and top three choices with another person. If you have a **co-leader**, talk with them. Also, connect with you **coach**. Then, select the study you think will best meet your goals. Remember: **no study is perfect!** It's simply a tool to help your group move forward this season.

FALL 2021

FEATURED STUDIES

As you think through the upcoming semester, consider one of our **featured studies**. We highlight these options a bit more to our church because these studies are a critical part of our pathway, especially timely, and/or are our **highest rated** discussion starters. Here are the featured studies for the fall:



REGISTER YOUR GROUP

Now that you have a plan, it is critical you **register** your group, even if your group was together last semester. Why? It's how we keep up-to-date with your group's details (we know these change as calendars fluctuate each season).

Every group planning to meet this fall (including those continuing on from the spring) **needs to register** by filling out **the Group Registration Form**. This form is found at the following link: <https://chaseoaks.typeform.com/to/dnZczaUM>

To help you be ready to fill out the form, here are a few components to think through ahead of time.

1

Type of Group: What is your primary demographic? We do men's groups, women's groups, couples groups, young adult groups, and anybody groups. Which best fits your group?

2

Location: Where do you plan to **primarily** meet as a group: **online** or **offsite** (at a home or other location)?

3

Day and Time: When will your group meet this semester?

4

Group Capacity: Consider the maximum number of people your group can accommodate. This will limit the number of people who can register for your group (once your group is full it will no longer appear on the locator). This number should be between 3-30 (if you're not sure, we recommend 15). **We ask all groups to be open and invitational.** And barring special circumstances, groups should be listed on the locator for Open Enrollment.

REGISTER YOUR GROUP

5

Group Study: When you register, you'll need to know which study you'll be doing this semester. You'll first be asked if it's a "featured study." If it's not, select "other studies" and you'll see our expanded list.

6

Group Name: Come up with a name that is unique to your group. It typically includes the Leader's last name and the type of group (demographic), but it could also include your study topic or other keywords that describe your group. Try to **limit it to less than 6 words**. Here are some examples to consider:

Eubanks Doting Grandparents Group
Peña College and Coffee Group
Lee Men who Lunch Group
Teese Newly Marrieds Group
Brechner Empty Nesters Group
Smith Single Moms Group
SMACK Young Adult Group
Prime Timers Empty Nesters Group
Jeff's Top Pick Couples Group
Established Women's Group
Gunter Ignite Care Group
Pavey Parents of HighSchoolers Group
Monroe Men's Basketball Group
McKinney Homeschooling Moms Group
Fired Up Men's Group
Watson Dog Lovers Group
Thompson Unoffendable Lunchtime Group

REGISTER YOUR GROUP

7

Group Description: In a few words, describe the heart, tone, and uniqueness of your group (less than 60 words). You may want to include things like general age range, childcare options, zip code of meeting location, and goal for the season. In the boxes below, you'll see some sample descriptions in italics.

Truong Men's Breakfast Group

Mondays at 7:00 AM
Offsite

Topic: Dream Big
Richardson Campus - Men

Just a bunch of guys who like to start the week off right with breakfast and good conversation. We meet at a local diner which will not disappoint!

Openings: 15

SIGN UP FOR THIS GROUP

Winters Parent's Group

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
Offsite

Topic: Sermon Studies
Legacy Campus - Couples

Come join us as we dig deeper into each week's sermon and live life together. We are in our 30s-40s+ with a range of kiddos from elementary to high school. We meet at a home in 75074, and childcare is provided by KidzKlub.

Openings: 10

SIGN UP FOR THIS GROUP

Khastehdel Moms Who Pray Group

Wednesdays at 8:30 PM
Online

Topic: Prayer
Sloan Creek Campus - Women

*We are a group of moms that meet online to learn about the power of prayer. We are all over the map when it comes to age of kids, so if you are a mom who wants to pray for your kids and family, join us!
No childcare provided.*

Openings: 15

SIGN UP FOR THIS GROUP

REGISTER YOUR GROUP

DON'T FORGET – FILL OUT THE FORM! Doing all this prep work is nice, but what is most important is you submitting your information to us so we can make sure your group is set-up in our system for the spring, support you well! Please do this as soon as possible. Thanks!

GO TO: <https://chaseoaks.typeform.com/to/dnZczaUM>



FALL 2021

SEMESTER CALENDAR

WEEKEND	OPEN ENROLLMENT	GROUP SEMESTER	IMPORTANT DATES
Jul 30-Aug 1			Garland ISD (2nd)
Aug 6-8			Plano, Allen, Prosper/Wylie, Mck, Frisco/Rich (11th/12th)
Aug 13-15			Lovejoy/Richardson (16th/17th)
Aug 20-22			
Aug 27-29			
Sep 3-5			Labor Day (6th)
Sep 10-12		1	
Sep 17-19		2	
Sep 24-26		3	
Oct 1-3		4	
Oct 8-10		5	Student Holiday (11th-12th)
Oct 15-17		6	
Oct 22-24		7	
Oct 29-31		8	Halloween (31st)
Nov 5-7		9	Daylight Savings (7th), Veterans Day (11th)
Nov 12-14		10	
Nov 19-21		11	
Nov 26-28		12	Thanksgiving (25th)
Dec 3-5		13	
Dec 10-12			
Dec 17-19			School Winter Break Starts (20th)
Dec 24-26			Christmas (25th)