

WELCOME TO GROUP LEADER ORIENTATION

Thank you for partnering with us to create environments where people can find friends and pursue transformation together. We are passionate about no one going it alone in our church and community. You play a vital role in making that vision a reality.

We want to help you win as a group leader or co-leader. This orientation is designed to prepare you to lead (or continue to lead) a group at Chase Oaks Church for the upcoming semester. We'll cover some important details and helpful tools for the season ahead.

This orientation isn't meant to be exhaustive. We've tried to keep it simple by including information that is most helpful at the start. There will be other training opportunities down the road. Also, you have a coach who is here to come alongside you in your leadership journey. Please make connecting with them a priority – they are here for you!



THE REASON WE LOVE GROUPS

Transformation doesn't happen _____ .

We won't naturally drift towards it. We need the empowering work of the Holy Spirit and the encouragement of others who are for us. A group of friends pulling for each other changes everything.

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may **spur one another on** toward love and good deeds, **not giving up meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Hebrews 10:23-25

Two Big Implications:

1. **Groups are incredibly _____ .**
It's the best opportunity for people to **be transformed** at Chase Oaks Church.
2. **Great groups take great _____ .**
They won't just happen – it requires **passion, planning, and purposeful leadership** each and every season.

THE BIG PICTURE

OUR STRATEGY & STRUCTURE

Group Definition

A small gathering of _____ committed to taking _____ in their relationship with Jesus together each season.

Critical Components

- **A Place of _____ :**
Small enough (minimum of 3, maximum of 30; sweet spot 8-16 people) and meets regularly enough (minimum 2x per month; sweet spot 3-4x per month) for friendships to form and people to be known.
- **A Focus on _____ :**
Purpose is to grow spiritually and take next steps together.
- **A Trained _____ :**
A vetted Chase Oaker who loves Jesus, believes in the mission, DNA, and doctrine of Chase Oaks, exhibits the six characteristics, and is continually coached.
- **A Seasonal _____ :**
Everyone in the group has “opted in” for a specific amount of time to pursue a particular goal together.

Structure

We have groups of all _____ and _____ .

Within this framework, we have groups for men, women, couples, and young adults. We have ones that meet online, onsite, offsite. We have care / support groups, groups for MOMs, Established groups, sermon study groups, and many others. You get the idea.

We have a _____ system.

There is an easy on-ramp (Open Enrollment) and a clear commitment (a 13-week window), which makes it easier for people to say “yes.”

THE GROUP SEMESTER CALENDAR

**FALL
2020**

WEEKEND	OPEN ENROLLMENT	GROUP SEMESTER	IMPORTANT DATES
Jul 31 - Aug 2			
Aug 7-9			PISD, AISD/WISD, FISD Start (12th/13th)
Aug 14-16			LISD, RISD Start (17th/19th)
Aug 21-23			
Aug 28-30			
Sep 4-6			Labor Day (7th)
Sep 11-13		1	
Sep 18-20		2	
Sep 25-27		3	
Oct 2-4		4	
Oct 9-11		5	School off (12th/13th)
Oct 16-18		6	
Oct 23-25		7	
Oct 30-Nov 1		8	Halloween (31st)
Nov 6-8		9	
Nov 13-15		10	
Nov 20-22		11	
Nov 27-29		12	Thanksgiving (26th)
Dec 4-6		13	
Dec 11-13			
Dec 18-20			School Winter Break Starts (21st)
Dec 25-27			Christmas (25th)

**SPRING
2021**

WEEKEND	OPEN ENROLLMENT	GROUP SEMESTER	IMPORTANT DATES
Jan 1-3			New Years (1st), School Resumes (5th, 6th)
Jan 8-10		1. All Church Group Campaign	
Jan 15-17		2. All Church Group Campaign	MLK Day (18th)
Jan 22-24		3. All Church Group Campaign	
Jan 29-31		4. All Church Group Campaign	
Feb 5-7		5. All Church Group Campaign	Super Bowl (7th)
Feb 12-14		6. All Church Group Campaign	Valentines Day (14th) , School Off (15th)
Feb 19-21		1	
Feb 26-28		2	
Mar 5-7		3	PISD, AISD, LISD, FISD Break (8-12)
Mar 12-14		4	RISD Break (15-19)
Mar 19-21		5	
Mar 26-28		6	
Apr 2-4		7	Easter (4th)
Apr 9-11		8	
Apr 16-18		9	
Apr 23-25		10	
Apr 30-May 2		11	
May 7-9		12	Mother's Day (9th)
May 14-16		13	
May 21-23			AISD, FISD Ends (21st)
May 28-30			PISD/RISD, LISD Ends (27th/28th), Mem. Day (31st)
Jun 4-6			

CREATING A FLIGHT PLAN FOR YOUR GROUP

THE 4 STAGES

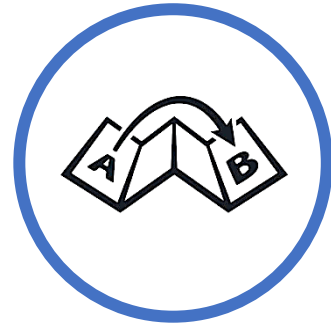
STAGE 1: _____

Chart a course

Inspire others to join

Communicate key details

- Pray for your group.
- Create a plan (study topic, day/time/location)
- Register your group (name, topic, description)
- Share details and registration link with group members
- Invite others to join
- Send a welcome greeting to people who sign up through locator
- Send multiple emails leading up to launch (make a risky step less risky)
- Connect with your coach



STAGE 2: _____

Help people feel welcome and ready for journey

Cast vision and communicate the plan

Bring enthusiasm and energy (blast off!)

- Pray for your group
- Arrive early to make sure you can welcome people well, especially new people
- Do an icebreaker to get everyone talking
- If meeting in-person, have a sign on the door
- Don't start the first meeting with your actual study. Do an introduction, share the plan (what you're doing, when you're meeting), and set everyone up for how to be prepared moving forward.
- Make sure everyone has one another's contact information
- End on time



STAGE 3: _____

Focus on relationships
Adjust and balance where needed
Empower others to help



- Pray for your group
- Ask someone to be your co-leader to help lead (and develop them as a future leader)
- Share tasks with group members (emails, prayer list, socials, service projects, leading discussion)
- Schedule time to meet one-on-one with different group members
- Encourage group members to connect with each other outside of group time
- Mix up meeting format. Do something fun, play a game, change up the way you do discussion (break up men and women, or a few couples meet with each other, etc.)
- Stay connected with your coach – update them about how things are going and discuss great ideas to try
- Keep casting vision – regularly remind your group members where you’ve been and where you’re going

STAGE 4: _____

Celebrate!
Make sure everyone has a next step
Talk about “it” – the next season for this group



- Pray for your group. Thank God for all He has done this semester.
- Take time as a group to celebrate next steps that have been taken.
- Share that your goal is to make sure no one in the group goes it alone next semester, whether with this group or another one
- Ask if people want to continue next season as a group. If so, talk about what that would look like. Appoint someone (either you the leader or someone else in the group) who will communicate with everyone updates and plans
- Have an “ICNU” conversation with anyone you could see as a potential group leader. Connect them with your campus’ Adult Ministry Pastor and invite them to the next Group Leader Orientation
- Encourage everyone to do the “Next Step Survey” that will come out from the church
- Share stories and updates with your coach

LEADING LIKE JESUS

THE 6 SIGNIFICANT CHARACTERISTICS

1. A _____ **Posture**

Jesus showed incredible humility – He took on flesh and died for us on the cross. Jesus is perfect, but we’re not, which means we have even more cause to be humble. Significant leaders are authentic about their struggles, don’t have all the answers, and seek feedback to get better.

2. A _____ **Heart**

Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve. Significant leaders look to give up their preferences for the sake of others. They lead from the bottom up, not top down.

3. A _____ **Attitude**

Jesus was for people, that’s why He came. Significant leaders want something for the people they lead. They assume the best about others.

4. A _____ **Mind**

Jesus asked more questions than He answered. He showed genuine interest in people. Significant leaders ask great questions and are great listeners.

5. An _____ **Faith**

Jesus invested in His relationship with His heavenly Father, and it showed up in everyday circumstances. Significant leaders have a vibrant and alive faith.

6. An _____ **Life**

Jesus made strategic decisions in order to maximize His time and leave a lasting impact. Significant leaders are intentional: they make plans and say “no” in order to say “yes” to what is most important.

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and **have it to the full.**”*

Jesus of Nazareth (John 10:10)

LEADERSHIP

PRINCIPLES & EXPECTATIONS

A Chase Oaks Church leader is a Christ-follower who is “all in” at Chase Oaks; believes in the mission, DNA, and doctrine of Chase Oaks; demonstrates both character and competence as a leader; and provides specific direction for a group of people.

1. Our character comes first.

We model ourselves after Jesus (His example, teaching, 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1). We are known for our Christ-like character and our love for others.

2. We inspire others to embrace the big mission and unleash their God-given potential.

The Chase Oaks’ mission, impacting the 800,000, is too big for a select few. Everyone’s unique strengths and abilities are needed.

3. Our primary role is to invest in current and future leaders.

Every leader invests in the development of a future or current leader. We seek out someone to invest in us, and we seek out someone to invest in.

4. We are always in learning mode.

As leaders, we are always learning from other good leaders. We eagerly engage in the learning opportunities Chase Oak’s provides for leaders because we can all always get better.

5. We go “All In.”

We participate in weekend worship services, belong in a group, serve on a team, give financially, and reach out to those who aren’t here yet through invitation.

“You are a vital part to the mission of reaching the 800,000 in our community who are far from God. It’s not time to wait; it’s time to engage!”

Jack Warren, Executive Pastor

CONNECTING WITH YOUR COACH

At Chase Oaks Church, we don't go it alone, including as leaders. We are always in learning mode, and we could all use someone in our corner who can pray for us, share practical advice, and connect us with resources to help us succeed. That's why we have Group Coaches. These experienced leaders are here for you. Please make connecting with them a priority. Here are our expectations for how you'll interact with your Coach this semester.

- **Regular Text Updates (Throughout the Semester)**
We ask that you be on a "text message basis" with your Coach, which means if you need something, you can text them and they'll respond quickly. And vice versa. It also means you give updates after meetings, share prayer requests, or any challenges you're facing.
- **Zoom Meetings (2x a Semester)**
We ask Coaches to connect with their leaders as a group twice a semester, typically once toward the beginning and once toward the end. We recommend these meetings happen digitally to make it convenient, whether it's through Zoom or another service. These 30 - 60 minute meetings will help you learn from one another and can be the best idea-generator to help you succeed!
- **One-On-One (1x a Semester)**
Once a semester, we'd like you to personally connect with your Coach, whether in-person, grabbing a meal, or an extended phone call.

LEADING DIGITALLY

BEST PRACTICES FOR ONLINE MEETINGS

Getting Started

- 1. Pick your platform.**
Zoom, Google Hangouts, Skype, FaceTime, Facebook Video Chat by Messenger
- 2. Share login instructions.**
Send link or any details to your group. Make it easy and clear on how to join. Don't do this just once – a few reminders are nice!
- 3. Lead the way.**
Jump on the call at least five minutes early so that you're the first one there. Welcome people as they login.

Tips, Tricks, & Best Practices

Try it ahead of time.

Ask everyone in the group to try the platform before the meeting to make sure they have the correct program downloaded. Sometimes an update is needed.

Hit “mute” when you're not speaking.

This will help cut out unnecessary and distracting noises. If everyone's microphone is on at the same time, it can be hard to hear the person speaking. Let everyone know they should be hitting the “mute” and “unmute” buttons a lot.

Use the “share your screen” feature.

Most platforms allow the host to share their screen. This is handy if you want to watch a video together (either the whole video or a segment). Try this out ahead of time. Sometimes you need to make an adjustment in your settings to make it work. Also, we recommend having everyone in the group turn off their camera while watching the video. That way you all don't have to watch each other watch a video!

Be an assertive moderator.

Online group meetings often require a more active and directive leader. It's harder to pick up on social cues and for group members to know when to speak. So, it may require the leader to call on people more than they normally would during an in-person gathering.

SOCIAL IDEAS

WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING

Creating ways for your group to come together while social distancing can be a challenge. Here are a few ideas to consider, depending on the comfort-level of you and your group.

Park

Invite your group to meet at a local park, asking members to bring their own lawn chairs, blankets, food, and drinks, and reminding them to remain six feet apart.

Grill

If you have a large yard, invite members to join you for a night of grilling and fun. Let them know they need to bring their own lawn chairs or if you will be providing them, and that seating will be six feet apart.

Driveway Social

Don't have a big yard? Invite your group to join you in your driveway. Encourage them to bring their own lawn chairs, snacks, and drinks.

Restaurant Patio

If your group members are comfortable eating at a restaurant, find a great local eatery where group members can hang out, order good food, and enjoy the patio together.

BEING TRANSFORMED AT CHASE OAKS

THE 4-5-6

4

UNDERLYING CONVICTIONS

*Beliefs that shape
our transformation strategy*

1. Transformation is maturing in faith, hope, and love.
2. Transformation doesn't happen naturally.
3. Transformation is an imperfect journey with a promised destination.
4. Transformation is uniquely personal but can't be done alone.

5

FAITH CATALYSTS

*Common ingredients to
transformation we leverage*

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

6

SIGNIFICANT CHARACTERISTICS

*Leadership qualities that help
transformation flourish*

1. A Humble Posture
2. A Servant's Heart
3. A "For You" Attitude
4. A Curious Mind
5. An Active Faith
6. An Intentional Lifestyle