

Hey Small Group Leaders!

We had a record number of you join us for *Next Level Leadership* this past Sunday. Whether you joined us or not, we want to celebrate how God used DTS professors Dr. Joye Baker and Dr. Brian Bittiker to equip us. I keep mulling over their words and wanted to share some of my takeaways with y'all here:

- Your small group leadership matters—Community is God's idea. We need one another to correctly read, interpret, and live out God's word. As part of God's family, we belong to one another.
- Our goal during our small group sessions is to facilitate meaningful conversation leading to life transformation.
- As leaders, we create a safe, trusted environment for our members to share.
- We want to ask good questions and listen well.

There was so much more! We've included the handouts from Sunday for further reference.

We also talked about establishing small group guidelines. We've included our **Small Group Covenant**, to help with some of the expectations you may wish to set.

Fall is a great time to take a pulse on the state of your small group. We handed out some **Next Level Questions** we'd love for you to ask your group (included in the attached pdf). We'd love to hear how those conversations go!

[We mentioned that our staff is looking for ways to support and care for you as you lead. Shannon, our Groups Director, and I would love **take you to coffee or a meal** and hear more of how YOU are doing. We've synced our calendars so you can use this [link](#) to find a time and suggest a place that works best for you. If nothing works for your availability, let us know and we'll do our best to find a time.]

You are not alone as you lead! Our Group Life staff is here to support and encourage you, in both the good and the challenges of groups. Please reach out at any time. Thank YOU for faithfully leading your people into the unexpected joy of desperate dependence on Jesus.