



TC Small Group First Responders System

Small Groups is Truth Church's "first responders" to individuals in times of hardship, loneliness, brokenness and/or even when things are going "right" in one's world. While in the past, at Truth Church along with churches all over the world, the Pastor/Pastoral Team has been the "go-to" for any and all adverse situations, this is simply not Biblical. We are told in Ephesians 4:11-12, "**(11)** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **(12)** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:." If this scripture tells us nothing else, it conveys that pastors cannot do it alone. This same chapter goes on in verse 16 to say, "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Small Groups is the system that ensures that the "whole body" is "fitly joined together" as the scripture instructs.

One of the main ways that TC Small Groups ensures that the body of Christ operates smoothly is its First Responders System. This system is designed to be the first line of defense AND offense to individuals within the church that are going through a time of hardship (sickness/hospitalization, loss of loved one, and other extenuating circumstances) or a time of celebration (weddings, baby showers, new jobs, etc). In these times of hardship or celebration, it is the job of TC Small Groups (under the direction of the Group Leader) to rally around the individual going through this phase in life.

Through the use of the following system, it is the prayer of Truth Church that individuals will feel loved, supported, and connected to the body of Christ regardless of the current season of life they are in.



1. It is a necessity that small group leaders develop a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with their members, in order to know when situations arise in one's life.

2. Small Group Semester (Spring, Summer or Fall)
 - a. Small Group Semesters happen 3 times a year: Spring (10 weeks, starting at the beginning of February and ending in the middle of May), Summer (6 weeks, starting at the beginning of June and ending at the end of July), and Fall (10 weeks, starting at the beginning of September and ending in the middle of November).
 - i. During any of these times, it will be the job of the current Interest-Based Small Groups to rally their group around any individual (within their group or significantly connected to their group) going through a momentous time.
 - ii. If an individual who is not part of or strongly connected to a current Interest-Based group has a situation arise, it is the job of TC Perpetual Small Groups to ensure that any situation is appropriately addressed.

3. Small Group Breaks
 - a. A Small Group Break is any time in which small groups are not currently in progress. The breaks will happen for around 2-3 weeks between Spring and Summer Semesters, 4-5 weeks between Summer and Fall Semesters, and 12-13 weeks between Fall and Spring Semesters.
 - i. During these breaks, it is the job of TC Perpetual Small Groups to ensure that any situation is appropriately addressed.



4. TC Perpetual Small Groups

- a.** It is highly recommended that all TC Perpetual Small Group Leaders attend a Small Group Training Session (there are two held at the beginning of each Semester) in order to receive the necessary training/details of being “first responders” in individuals lives. This training/details will be or has been provided to all Interest-Based Small Group Leaders during the Training Sessions.
- b.** TC Small Group Directors have established the following months in which particular Perpetual Groups will be the First Responders:
 - i.** January - March: First Steps / TruKidz
 - ii.** April - June: AVL
 - iii.** July - September: Deeper Life
 - iv.** October - December: Praise Team

5. Dream Center Team Members

- a.** It is expected that the Dream Center Team rallies around any individual on the team going through extenuating circumstances.

In conclusion, this will ensure that the saints are constantly being “perfected,” so they can do “the work of ministry,” that the entire body of Christ may be “edified.”