

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. You will be invited to a new leader **huddle** so you can connect with staff, your coach, and brainstorm with others about best practices and common challenges to leading a group.



Taking steps together towards greater...

FAITH

HOPE

LOVE

***1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; Colossians 1:3-5;
Ephesians 1:15-18; 1 Corinthians 13:13;
Hebrews 10:19-25***

WHAT IS A GROUP?

Group Definition

A small gathering of **FRIENDS** committed to taking **NEXT STEPS** in their relationship with Jesus together each season.

Critical Components

- **A Place of BELONGING:**
Small enough (minimum of 3, maximum of 30; with a sweet spot of 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 BEING TRANSFORMED:**
Purpose is to grow spiritually and take next steps together.
- **A Trained LEADER:**
A vetted Chase Oaker who:
 - Loves Jesus
 - Believes in the mission, DNA, and doctrine of Chase Oaks
 - Exhibits the six characteristics of leadership
 - Is **continually** coached
- **A Seasonal COMMITMENT:**
Everyone in the group has “opted in” for a specific amount of time to pursue a particular goal together.

SETTING YOU UP FOR SUCCESS

OUR FRAMEWORK

We have groups of all shapes and sizes.

We form groups based on how people form friendships. We have groups for men, women, couples, college students, young adults, and more. We have ones that meet online, onsite, and offsite. We have care and support groups, groups for MOMS, Established groups, sermon study groups, and many others. You get the idea.

We have a semester system.

There is an easy on-ramp called **Open Enrollment** and a clear commitment for an allotted amount of time, which makes it easier for people to say, “yes.”

GROUP SEMESTER CALENDAR

FALL 2022

WEEKEND	OPEN ENROLLMENT	GROUP SEMESTER	IMPORTANT DATES	LEADER EVENTS AND MISC. EVENTS
Jul 29-31				School Zone Drop Off Weekend
Aug 5-7			Plano, Wylie, Allen, Frisco, Mck, Garland (8-11)	Free T-Shirt Weekend
Aug 12-14			Lovejoy/Richardson (15/16)	Vision Saturday Event @ Campuses
Aug 19-21				
Aug 26-28	OE Begins			
Sep 2-4			Labor Day (5th)	
Sep 9-11		Fall Group Semester Starts		
Sep 16-18				The Well
Sep 23-25	OE Ends (26)			Worship Night (25th)
Sep 30-Oct 2				Do Good Day
Oct 7-9				Revoice @ Legacy
Oct 14-16				
Oct 21-23				
Oct 28-30			Halloween (31st)	Trunk or Treat (29) all campus
Nov 4-6			Daylight Savings (6th), Veterans Day (11th)	
Nov 11-13				
Nov 18-20				
Nov 25-27			Thanksgiving (24th)	Toy Zone Drop Off
Dec 2-4				Toy Zone Drop Off
Dec 9-11				Toy Zone Shopping
Dec 16-18			School Winter Break Starts (19th)	
Dec 23-25			Christmas (25th)	

CREATING A FLIGHT PLAN FOR YOUR GROUP

THE FOUR STAGES

STAGE 1: PRE-FLIGHT

CHART a course

INVITE others to join

COMMUNICATE key details

BE next step minded



- Pray for your group.
- Connect with your **COACH**.
- Create a plan (study topic, day/time/location) then register your group on the [Typeform](#).
- Invite others to join.
- Send a welcome email to people who sign up.
- Send multiple emails leading up to launch (make a risky step less risky).
- Part of leading a group is about helping people take **NEXT STEPS**. As the semester begins, prepare to help group members **identify, share, and act** on their **NEXT STEP**.

STAGE 2: TAKEOFF

PREPARE for the first meeting

WELCOME everyone by being a great host

COMMUNICATE the plan

BE ENTHUSIASTIC and take flight



- If hosting in your home, be sure to **tidy up**. No one wants to walk into a dirty bathroom! **Bonus tip:** don't assume all people love your pets. Be courteous and have a plan for those fur babies.
- Arrive early to make sure you can welcome people well, especially new people!
- Plan for the first week to be an introduction week.
 - Share the plan: what are you doing and when are you meeting?
 - Set everyone up for success by telling them how to prepare prior to group.
- If you have new group members, be sure to have introductions which could include:
 - Why did you choose this group?
 - What are you hoping God does in your life this semester?
 - Icebreaker type question: If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

- Come up with a communication plan. Is it a group text? Group Me App? Then be sure everyone has access.
- Pray and end on time.

STAGE 3: FLIGHT

FOCUS on relationships

ADJUST and balance where needed

EMPOWER others to help

NEXT STEP conversations



- Pray for your group regularly. We believe this makes a huge impact.
- Stay connected with your **COACH** – update them about how things are going and discuss great ideas to try.
- Schedule time to meet one-on-one with different group members.
- Encourage group members to connect with each other outside of group time.
- Take a photo during your group time!
- Have an **ICNU** conversation and ask someone to be your co-leader to help lead. Develop their leadership.
- Share tasks with group members: emails, prayer list, socials, service projects, leading discussion.
- Mix up the 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.).
- Continue talking about **NEXT STEPS** for everyone in the group, including yourself.

STAGE 4: LANDING

CELEBRATE

SHARE NEXT STEPS

TALK about next semester



- Pray for your group. Thank God for all He has done this semester.
- Take time as a group to celebrate the commitment from each person to grow relationally and spiritually.
- Have each group member share their **NEXT STEP**. If someone is still unsure, make time to connect.
- Talk about the plan for next semester:
 - Do you want to lead again?
 - Who wants to continue together?

- Have an ICNU conversation with anyone you could see as a potential leader. Connect them with your campus' Adult Ministry Pastor for **NEXT STEPS**.
- Encourage everyone to do the **Next Steps Survey** that will come from the church.
- Share stories and updates with your coach.

LEADING LIKE JESUS

THE 6 SIGNIFICANT CHARACTERISTICS

1. A **HUMBLE** 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 **SERVANT’S** 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 **“FOR YOU”** 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 **CURIOUS** 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 **ACTIVE** 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 **INTENTIONAL** 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 (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 beyond 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 of the mission to inspire people to follow Jesus and together change our world for good.”

Jack Warren, Executive Pastor

CONNECTING WITH YOUR COACH

At Chase Oaks Church, we don't go it alone, including 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 (at least 1x per 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 (at least 1x per 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.

All leaders will encounter a situation in their group that may need some extra support or guidance. **All leaders** will face a season that is personally challenging or just need a listening ear to run an idea by. That is where your **Coach** plays such an important role. Your **Coach** is a specialized resource who understands the challenges of leadership and life. They are not around to manage your group or keep detailed accounts of your group's journey over the semester. However, they are deployed to invest directly into leaders, offer support when needed, pray for you and for those in your group, and have the discernment to know when further help may be required for some tough situations. **Basically, they are here to love group leaders!**

If you have not been introduced to your Group Coach for this semester, please reach out to the Groups Director at the campus you attend.

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