

# You Need a Co-Leader

## Leader Huddle Discussion Guide

### Ice Breaker:

- What is one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences you've had in discipling another person?

### Teaching: You Need a Co-Leader

Jesus gave us a mission.

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:18b-20, emphasis ours)*

Living out this command to make disciples is one of the primary reasons we do small groups. Yes, they create community and provide opportunities for friendship, but we can find those through meetup.com. Discipleship distinguishes a small group from a social club.

The co-leader relationship is one of the best opportunities for discipleship within a small group. Many times, co-leaders are less often true peers and more often disciple and discipler. Much like Paul and Timothy, they're co-laborers in Christ, but one person is usually the lead leader and the other person the co-leader. One person is usually more experienced and perhaps a bit wiser or more spiritually mature.

As Pastor Heather would say, discipleship happens in the context of real life, not just over a cup of coffee. Coffee shop moments can be critical, but discipleship is at its best when our lives truly intersect, especially when we are on mission together. You will find discipleship moments happening both intentionally and unintentionally as you spend time with your co-leader planning, preparing, discussing, disagreeing, and even just hanging out.

### Practical Potential

Here are six reasons your small group will be stronger if you have a co-leader.

1. **You can only be in one place at one time.** If you have a co-leader, your group can still happen if you're on vacation or simply need to be somewhere else that night.

Your inability to be in multiple places at once also means that you can only lead one group on any given night. If and when your group fills up, having a co-leader helps ensure you're ready to plant a new group.

2. **You might not like everyone in your group.** You know it's true. A co-leader can take the lead on discipling, meeting with, and encouraging the people you might not click with.
3. **You are a man or a woman.** We're sure that comes as a shock to you. The point here is that it is usually a good idea for women to be led, disciplined, and counseled by other women. Of course, the same is true for men. In a co-ed group, having a co-leader of the opposite gender can help make this happen.
4. **You don't know it all.** There are some things that you don't know much about, and there are some skills involved in leading a small group that you're just not suited for. A co-leader with different areas of expertise can help compensate for gaps in your knowledge and abilities.
5. **You can't do it all... well.** We've all experienced being stretched too thin. Having someone else taking care of the logistics, snacks and curriculum, for example, can free you up to focus on facilitating discussion and building community. The ability to focus on just a couple of tasks enables us to perform them with excellence.
6. **You can't see it all.** A co-leader can provide an outside perspective on your group that is invaluable. As leaders, sometimes we get tunnel vision. A co-leader can help ensure that we're considering all of the angles so that we can lead our groups well.

Your small group will never reach its full potential if you are leading alone. You owe it to yourself, your group, the church, and the Kingdom to find a co-leader.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Which of the six reasons for having a co-leader resonated the most with you? Why?
- Have your past and current experiences of working with a co-leader been more like a disciple/discipler relationships or serving as peers? How does that difference play out?
- What are some of the benefits you've experienced from having a co-leader?
- What are some of the hurdles you've faced when you haven't had a co-leader?
- What are some gaps in your leadership that a co-leader could help fill?
- Is there anyone in your group you could ask to lead with you? If not, how can you help someone come to a place where they're ready to lead?