**<Group Name>**

**Discipleship**

Next New

Group

**Mission**

**Coordinator**

**Community**

**What Do I Do?**

*<List roles/responsibilities here>*

**Our Mission:** *<Your church mission statement here.>*

**Using the Adult Group Ministry Circles model with your group**

Every member has a part to play in the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27). The same is true in our small groups and Sunday School classes—**healthy groups do not depend on one or two people for everything**. They develop the gifts and abilities of all who are in the group. Healthy churches are constantly developing new leaders, and our primary groups ministry is the best “leadership pipeline” as we invite individuals to serve the group and community together. Remember, **you are not asking group members to “take a job,” but to “take a step of discipleship”** as they serve Jesus, their group, and others who need Jesus or a church family.

The big idea behind the Ministry Circles model is that everyone in the group will add their name to one of the circles under one of the roles, *AND* will be empowered to lead the group in that specific area. **The roles may be adapted for your unique setting, but a balanced emphasis on Community, Mission, and Discipleship is healthy.** Based on the size, desires, and needs of your group, you may have more than one person in some roles working as a team. **If you have a very small group, you should delete all but the most basic roles and add new roles as your group grows or people want to serve in different ways.**

Role descriptions are intentionally short to avoid overwhelming or guilting group members. You will need to help group members visualize the specifics and connect their jobs to the big picture mission of the church and the group. For example, Greeters arrive a few minutes early and open doors, smile, verbally interact, introduce, etc. Service leaders plan get-togethers to assemble hygiene bags for the local homeless ministry, organize the group to lead worship at a nursing home, set up a group work day with Habitat for Humanity, etc.

This model likely means your Teacher will have less time than in a traditional group or class, so work out a new “ideal” schedule in advance of implementing the strategy. Your group time might look something like this:

* Outreach/Projects/Fellowship/Care Team discussion – 15 minutes
* Bible Study – 35 minutes
* Prayer – 10 minutes

In a best-case scenario, a Teacher will integrate other leaders as part of the lesson/discussion. For example, a lesson about starting spiritual conversations may end with three tips from the Outreach leader and a story from a group member who used those tips to share the gospel with a neighbor. In this way, leaders truly function as a team and the body is strengthened.

The “floating” Next New Group triangle reminds members that reaching new people for Jesus requires creating new places for them to connect. In general, when a group has been together for two years or more it is difficult for a newcomer to really become a part of the group. As established group leaders cultivate a missional/ pioneering/entrepreneurial culture, God will call out a few to launch a new group to reach new people. New groups should be started by **resilient leaders** at **strategic times** to reach a **defined group** in the church or community.

If you’d like to talk through the Ministry Circles model or want help in presenting it to your Sunday School or Small Group leaders, contact the Texas Baptists Discipleship Team via the contact form at the bottom of the webpage txb.org/discipleship.

An editable Microsoft Word version of this document is available at txb.org/dc. Make it your own as you invite group members into meaningful discipleship by serving the group, church, and community.