



MY SMALL GROUP LEADER COVENANT

January 5, 2006

I COMMIT TO PURSUE MY SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

- I will regularly engage in the spiritual disciplines.
- I will pursue spiritual freedom & be continuously led, filled, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- I will maintain purity and integrity in my interaction with the opposite sex.
- I will ask someone to mentor me in my spiritual growth as needed.
- I have spiritual gifts needed to lead a healthy group.
- I agree with First Free's Doctrinal Position (see PDF file at <http://firstfree.com/mission.html>.)
- I agree to become a member of First Free at my earliest possible opportunity.
- I commit to leading a SG for 1+ year as my primary ministry responsibility at First Free.

I COMMIT TO FIRST FREE'S VISION FOR SMALL GROUPS:

1. With my apprentice and host I commit to help my group members grow in SPIRITUAL FORMATION:
 - Before starting the group, I will meet with my apprentice and host to fast/pray for the group.
 - Seekers will be encouraged to become Christians and will be mentored by someone in the group.
 - Everyone in the group will eventually be baptized and become members of the church.
 - Each person in the group will use his/her spiritual gifts in at least one ministry in the church.
2. With my apprentice and host I commit to help my group members grow in GENUINE COMMUNITY
 - People will genuinely care for each other in the group.
 - Everyone in the group will use his/her spiritual gifts to encourage one another in the group.
 - Commit to keep the group always open to newcomers. When the group gets too large, instead of closing the group, will birth a new group so that more people can experience genuine community.¹
3. With my apprentice and host I commit to encourage my group members to participate regularly in VIBRANT WORSHIP on Sunday mornings.
4. With my apprentice and host I commit to help my group members grow in COMPASSIONATE OUTREACH
 - My group will participate in compassionate outreaches.
 - My group will welcome seekers and group members will be asked to invite unchurched neighbors, family members, and co-workers to the group.

I COMMIT TO CONNECT WITH SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP TEAM:

- I will attend the 101 Small Group Leadership Training and complete my leadership application before I begin leading the group.
- I will connect with SGLT as needed to receive small group care and encouragement (especially in times of major group change, concerns, and crisis).
- I will attend (with my apprentice) all 5 Ministry Community Huddles (see "Event Calendar" on church web site) each year in order to receive my primary coaching from the SGLT.
- I will be committed and loyal to the leadership and vision of First Free.
- I agree to step down from leadership if at any time I am unable to fully compile with the ministry role outlined above (as determined by SGLTeam).

Signed:

Name of my apprentice:

Date:

Name of my host:

¹ If group has not multiplied within 24 months, the SGLT will work with the leader to reevaluate the group and determine what is preventing the group from realizing the church's vision.



Application for Small Group Leadership at First Free

Updated as of March 22, 2005

General Information

Name(s) _____ Date: _____

Address _____ zip: _____

Phone: (h) (_____) _____ (w) (_____) _____ (c) (_____) _____

Best time to reach me by phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Occupation: _____

Job site: _____

Age: _____

Which are you? Single Married Divorced Separated Widowed

If married, does your spouse support your decision to lead a SG? Yes No

Relationship with First Free

How long have you been attending First Free?

Where did you go to church before coming here?

What was your church or religious background growing up?

Have you been baptized yet?

What SG or Ministry Team are you currently a member of?

Who do you know best at First Free? What First Free leader knows you best?

I have signed "My Small Group Leader Covenant" : Yes No

How you plan to start your small group

1) I want to help in leading a group starting _____ (date and time).

2) I would prefer to work with this kind of group: All women All men All singles
All couples Mixed Families Outreach to people in my neighborhood or
workplace

3) I will be inviting the following people to my group (please list):

a. unchurched neighbors:

b. unchurched family members:

c. unchurched co-workers:

d. church acquaintances:



Note: Please write your following answers on another sheet of paper. Or, if you'd prefer, set up an interview with a member of the SGLTeam and answer the following questions in person.

Spiritual Journey

1. How did you come to know Christ personally?
2. Are you aware of anything in your past or present that might present a stumbling block to others or might cast you in an unfavorable light? (see 1 Timothy 3, Romans 14, Ephesians 4& 5, etc.)

Vision for Ministry

1. What are your spiritual gifts and passion for SG ministry?
2. Why do you want to lead a small group at First Free?
3. How are you pursuing seekers?
4. When someone in your SG asks you how to become a Christian, what would you tell them?
5. After this SG member became a Christian, how would you ask your group to help them grow in Christ?
6. What changes will you be making in your present lifestyle/schedule to devote sufficient time to fulfill your SGL Covenant?
7. Please give a brief history of previous small group experience in church and parachurch organizations.
8. What help, encouragement, or coaching would you like to receive from the SGLTeam as you lead a small group? (Be as specific as possible.)
9. If you plan to lead a group, please write up a short paragraph inviting people to your small group (contact persons, time of meetings, locations, who's invited, etc.) This paragraph will be included in First Free's "Small Group Brochure".
10. What questions remain for you concerning small group ministry at First Free?

Fill this out and return to Church office. Small Group Ministry c/o John Watson, First Free Church, 5249 N. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60640-2001. Other email or fax to:
jwatson@firstfree.com
Fax: 773/561-7619