

Group Leader Guide

Aaron Brockett – Our Next Guest

September 7-8, 2019

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

Guest Speaker **Aaron Brockett** joins us this weekend. He challenges us with a message on the value of living in community. Too often we, as Christians, choose to go it alone and isolate ourselves. We do this to make ourselves feel safe. However, when we are alone and isolated is the perfect time for Satan to attack us. Using plenty of Scripture (**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**, in particular), Aaron shows us that living in authentic community may be messy at times, but is the way that God designed us to grow and be able to live life to the fullest.

// Aaron Brockett

Aaron is the lead pastor of Traders Point Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. Traders Point is a multisite church similar

in methodology to Flatirons which has seen rapid growth over the past few years since. Aaron and his wife, Lindsay, have four children.

// Stats

For your reference, here is a list of the stats that Aaron uses in his message.

- 6 out of 10 women have a close, peer relationship that is marked by openness and mutual commitment. Only 1 out of 10 men have the same.
- “If you belong to no groups but decide to join one, you cut your risk of dying over the next year in half.” -Robert Putnam¹
- Only 21% of believers say they see the need to connect with others to grow in their relationship with Jesus.
- 65% say they keep their personal struggles to themselves.

// References

1. Putnam RD. Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community. New York: Simon & Schuster; 2000.



Aaron, Lindsay, and their kids

// In Preparation

Aaron will be making a big push for groups this weekend. So, if your group isn't full, you may be seeing some more signups! Pray that God will put the right people in your group: people who are fearful of connection, people who think they need to do life alone, people who have been too busy in the past. These are the people who need this type of community the most. Pray that God will use you to help the people in your group live life more fully and openly.

For those of you who already have people in your group, take some time this week to pray for each of them individually. Even if you don't know their whole story yet, God does. He has each of them in *your* group for a reason. Do this every week while you are meeting.

Discussion Questions

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// Bible References

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

// Community Questions

1. What was your first car? Who rode shotgun in it most of the time?

// Core Questions

1. How do you view the “rumble strips” God has placed in your life? Do you view them as an inconvenience in order to gain God’s favor or a way that God wants to protect you and help you live your life to the fullest?
2. Looking back at your friendships throughout your life, who has God placed in your life for something you’ve needed to give or receive?
3. How have you used this group in the past for help or support in your life?
4. If you are new to a group, what are you most hopeful about regarding being here?
5. Why do you tend to isolate? What are the excuses, life circumstances, or fears that keep you from engaging in real, authentic community?
6. You will be tempted to skip group in the future *because of one of these reasons*. Are you willing to remain aware of these reasons and bring them before God?

// Challenge

As you heard in the talk, community is vital to growth and having a full life. You have a unique opportunity in that you are already in a group! The challenge this week is to commit to being here every week this semester. Community and relationship usually take a little bit of time to grow and build trust. Making a group trustworthy and safe requires commitment and consistency. Relational equity is built mainly through time spent together. So, it could seem awkward the first couple of weeks. That is ok! Lean in, test the waters, and hopefully soon you will begin to feel comfortable and connect to other like-minded people!