



VICTORY

LIFEGROUP

LEADER ESSENTIALS





Stronger  
Together

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## Questions? Ideas?

Contact [Lisa@getvictory.net](mailto:Lisa@getvictory.net).

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# I. THIS IS BIG

Why we believe small group relationships are big (and key) to your growth and God's glory

If you've been around Victory very long, you've heard about LifeGroups. Victory Church is a caring, committed community of worshipers. We experience God more fully in the context of community. When God's family connects, the Holy Spirit encourages and empowers us through each other to carry out God's purposes in our world.

**We have 4 reasons we'd love everyone who is a part of Victory to also be a part of a LifeGroup:**

1. Small groups are the biblical model for Christian growth and mission. Right after Jesus was raised from the dead and the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, the early church met in temple courts (large gatherings) and in homes (small gatherings).
2. LifeGroups provide a space for people to be cared for and loved. LifeGroups are the frontline of care for people at Victory Church.
3. It's in the context of the family of God that we most experience him and grow to be like him and glorify him through our lives. This happens as each person serves in his or her spiritual gifts.
4. As our groups serve our community together, our lives become more outward focused. This is one of the strongest marks of a follower of Jesus.



Called to be the church

**Ephesians 4:11** tells us, "He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

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*"When we grow in our relation to God as worshipers, we also grow in our connection with other believers."*

## NOTES

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A space to be cared for and loved

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many signs and wonders performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.

They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

**Acts 2:42-47**

# II. THE BIG PICTURE

## How we do LifeGroups at Victory Church

1. Victory Church has chosen a tri-semester model. We start new groups at least three times a year. We believe this is a good model because:
  - It provides an opening three times a year for individuals to connect to small group discipleship.
  - It provides a start and stop with a brief rest between semesters. This fits our culture well. More people try groups if they know there will be an exit.
2. Our groups are “free market.” Leaders can choose their curriculum or activity (*with the approval of the LifeGroup Pastor*). This allows for a good variety of topics that meet the interests and needs of a variety of people.
3. Every 18 months or so we interrupt the free market system and move all groups to an alignment. This is when all groups study the same curriculum. The purpose of an alignment is to bring the whole church family together for unified vision and learning.
4. All our groups are led by Christ-centered people who make the experience Christ-centered. Whether a group meets to play basketball or grow as parents, the goal is to move forward in our faith together.
5. Our three semesters are preceded by a “fill month,” typically January, May and September where an online menu is published and people can sign up online for their group. Groups should meet weekly for 8 to 12 weeks.

Winter/Spring - 13 Weeks				Summer - 6 Weeks				Fall - 13 Weeks			
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
FILL				FILL				FILL			

## Who can join a LifeGroup?

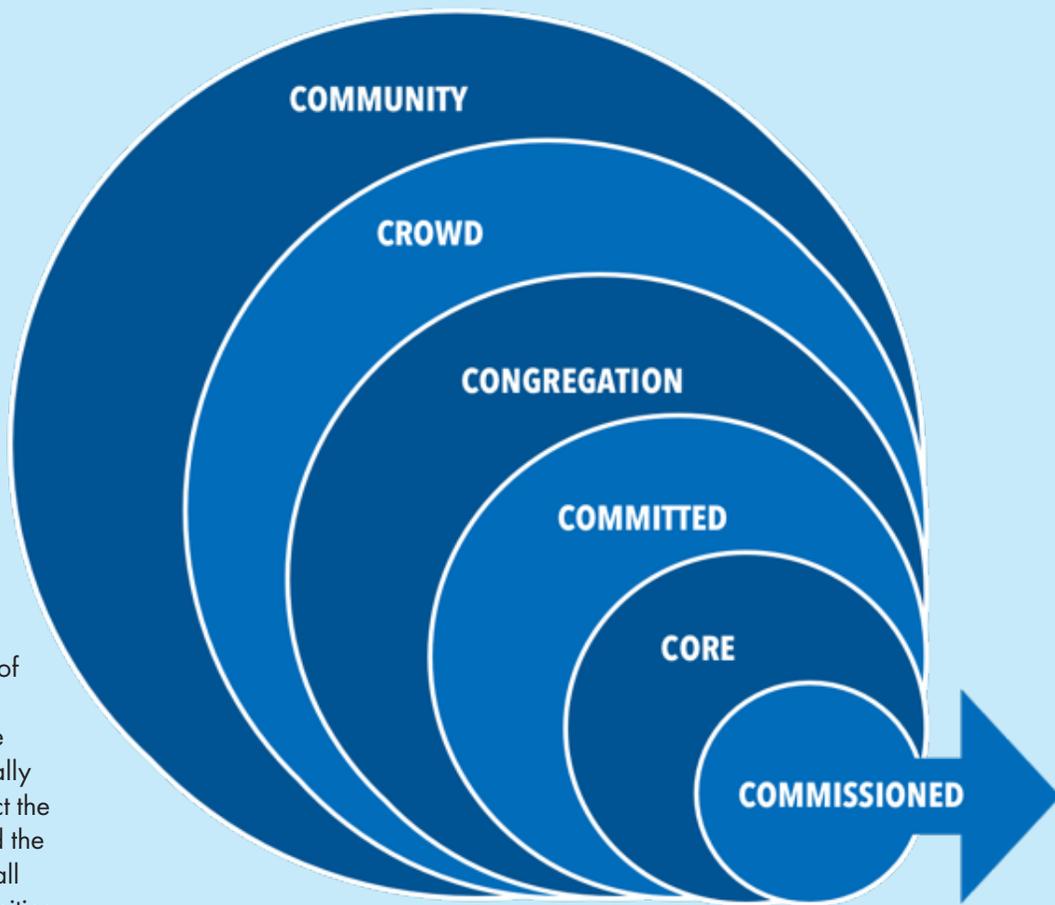
We believe that every human being has infinite value to God and to us, as God’s family. Therefore:

- Victory LifeGroups are for anyone. Church members, church attenders, the unchurched, those unfamiliar with Christ, as well as friends, family, adults and teenagers.
- Groups are recommended for the spiritual health of everyone, but we especially like to invite those brand new to Victory. We believe that every person is one tough experience away from walking away from the Lord, and when a new believer or a new person connects with a LifeGroup, they’ll find God’s strength and the love of Christ-centered community to stay the course.

## Who Can Lead a Victory LifeGroup?

Anyone who:

- Attends Victory Church.
- Is a church member or is willing to attend Growth Track and apply for membership within 2 semesters.
- Loves the Lord and lives a lifestyle that reflects biblical values and will not discredit the Lord or Victory Church.



This diagram illustrates the different types of people around our church. We always especially want to connect the community and the crowd with small group opportunities

## NOTES

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We grow with one another

“As disciples growing together, we are always considering how to help each other grow.”

# III. THE WIN

Based on Acts 2, there are 6 things we do together as LifeGroups. It’s a win when all of these are accomplished.

- 1. **We study scripture together.** The leader points group members to the truths of the Bible whether through study together, doing a You Version devotional together, or helping group members develop habits of daily time with God through his word.

**THE WIN:** A group member values God’s word as the standard for life and godliness. A group member takes a next step by spending more personal time with God through the Bible and his or her thinking is being transformed to line up with scriptural truths. (Romans 12:1 and 2).

- 2. **We pray together.** Leaders model prayer in the group and for group members. Group members pray for one another and for those yet to know Christ.

**THE WIN:** A group member takes a next step by praying with and for other group members and others as well as developing a regular rhythm of prayer for the people in his or her circles of influence who are yet to know Christ.

- 3. **We care for one another.** Leaders do to and for group member what they would like to see group members doing to and for one another. LifeGroups are the frontline of care for people at Victory Church.

**THE WIN:** Group members recognize the needs of others in their group and reach out to help through prayer, meeting a physical need, and connecting outside of the group time.

- 4. **We serve together.** Each Victory LifeGroup serves the community together once a semester. The leader helps group members know that God made each of them to make a difference and they can impact their world. Serving together as a group at a Big Day of Service or another outreach to people outside of the church gives people confidence that God can work through them. The goal is not just participating in a Big Day of Service, but by participating, the group members will have confidence to live big lives of service.

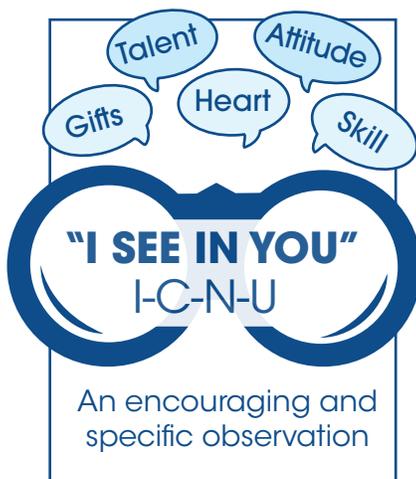
**THE WIN:** Through vision and organization, most group members take part in the group’s service project.

- 5. **We help each other take next steps.** Disciples make disciples. Leaders understand their win is not a meeting, but a group of people becoming more like Jesus Christ in attitudes and actions. Leaders practice the I-C-N-U principle and look for and bring out the gifts and callings of those in their group.

**THE WIN:** Group members understand they have God-given influence and are taking steps to live out their purpose in their daily lives. The leader identifies and begins developing a new leader.

- 6. **We have fun together.** LifeGroup participation should be enjoyable. People should feel included, valued and respected. Leaders work to learn names, include everyone, connect group members to one another and bring joy to the room. (Acts 2, “glad and sincere hearts”).

**THE WIN:** Group members show up for your group. They don’t want to miss a meeting. Group members invite others to groups.



# IV. THE THREE B'S OF A LIFEGROUP LEADER



Be there

## 1. Be Prepared

- a. Attend a pre-semester huddle for all LifeGroup leaders (*new and veterans*). At Victory Church, leaders are learners, and make time to grow in their gifts and skills. Training is held to help you grow in your leadership skills and enable you to carry out the vision of Victory Church through your group.
- b. Connect with your co-leaders, pray together, discuss your group vision, your semester plan, and how to use curriculum.
- c. Be ready for each session. Pray and have a good handle on each session.
- d. Attend Churchwide Vision meetings. These are held two to three times a year.

Lack of preparation communicates lack of value of your task and the people in your group. In a world that is fractured, who we are as a community of worshipers provides real hope.

## 2. Be There

- a. You have to show up to be the church. Make attending your group a priority. Attend all your group meetings unless it's unavoidable.
- b. Be active in the larger community of Victory Church by attending corporate worship.

## 3. Be Involved

- a. The goal is not a good 60 or 120 minute meeting weekly. The goal is to make space for a Spirit-empowered community where people are known and know others. Connect with group members during the week.
- b. Celebrate birthdays, follow up on needs.
- c. Consistent and informed prayer. Regular prayer for and with your group members is one of the most powerful things you can do to align your group members' hearts with the Lord. Ask group members how you can pray for them and follow up later.
- d. Celebrate. Plan a fun celebration with your group each semester. Go out for ice cream, have a backyard bonfire, go on a hike, or go to brunch after church.

"Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well."

**1 Thessalonians 2:8**

## NOTES

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Commitment

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

**Acts 2:42**

# V. LIFEGROUP ROLES

## 1. The LifeGroup Leader

a. LifeGroup leaders are key leaders at Victory Church. Leaders should understand and agree to the following:

LifeGroup Leader Agreement

b. Membership and LifeGroup leadership.

Victory’s LifeGroups are one of our primary pipelines for leadership development. People may step up to lead or assist in leading a group without being an official member for one semester. After that semester he or she must attend Victory Growth Track and apply for official membership.

Why Membership?

- We believe that church membership is an outward sign of a heart commitment to a local church family and its mission.
- LifeGroup leaders model commitment to community and this is exemplified in church membership.
- LifeGroup leaders carry out the vision and values of Victory Church through their groups. No group functions autonomously apart from the larger life of Victory Church. This ensures a healthier experience for those signing up for a group.

## 2. The New LifeGroup Leader

a. A “new LifeGroup leader” is a person new to leading groups at Victory Church or a person who has never led a small group before.

b. LifeGroups are a primary leadership pipeline for Victory Church. Leaders should seek to develop group members, share responsibilities and invite individuals to consider becoming an assistant leader.

c. Our system to support new LifeGroup leaders is as follows:

New leaders have a “get to know you” interview with the groups pastor.

New leaders are required to attend New Leader Orientation held before the start of the semester.

New leaders will have a LifeGroup coach who will commit to pray for the leader, for their leadership and group weekly, as well as checking in weekly by text and in person throughout the semester. The coach offers spiritual and practical support to the new leader. Coaches do to and for the new leader what we hope the new leader will do to and for his or her group members.



# ESSENTIALS FOR LIFEGROUP LEADERS APPENDIX

- Start Strong
- LifeGroup Member Agreement
- LifeGroup Leader Agreement
- Facility Use
- 10 Best IceBreakers
- The Vision and Values of Victory

Resources for LifeGroup Leaders can be found on the Victory Church website on the LifeGroups page under Resources. [www.getvictory.net/lifegroupleader](http://www.getvictory.net/lifegroupleader)

## STARTING OFF STRONG:

### Before your first meeting:

1. Become familiar with Victory Connect and locate your group list and start praying for those who have signed up for your group.
2. Meet with your co-leaders in the month before your group starts.
3. Make one last contact with each person signed up a few days before your first meeting.
4. Go to the LifeGroup Leader Resource page on the church website and become familiar with resources there. [www.getvictory.net/lifegroupleader](http://www.getvictory.net/lifegroupleader)

### Your first LifeGroup session:

1. Start and end on time. This shows respect for people's time.
2. Be prepared. At group start time, be ready to focus on the people, not on your lesson or logistics.
3. First 15 minutes, welcome each person, allow people to arrive, get a snack, introduce people to each other.



### **Use nametags.**

1. Gather group and be sure room dynamic is good for conversation. Think circles not rows.
2. Welcome, Ice breaker. This can be longer for your first meeting so people connect. (Longer: up to 30 minutes).

### **Ice breakers seem trivial, but they achieve some important things:**

- a. Help people transition from life to a spiritual focus.
- b. Create common ground around an area everyone can share on (first car, favorite hobby, best sports team, etc. Don't use biblical topics for ice breakers. These exclude seekers and those who don't "have a favorite Bible verse" yet!) People connect naturally before they can connect spiritually.
- c. Where can you find ice breakers? Google "ice breakers."

### **Leaders help group know what to expect.**

1. Leaders introduce LifeGroup topic and give vision to what people can get out of the group. Share the purpose of your group with excitement, passion, and build expectation for what God will do in your time together. Show an introductory video if there is one.
2. Leaders should share:
  - a. Group plan (syllabus), dates, what's being read for when, etc.
  - b. Group expectations: Go over LifeGroup Agreement found on the LifeGroup leader resource page on our website. This includes outside reading, etc.
  - c. Opportunities to share roles by being a coordinator. Share each area of service, have a sign up out, but in the following week, individually contact people and invite individuals to do things. Explain that the purpose of a group is spiritual development and we grow by serving.
  - d. Introduce the idea that your group will serve those outside the church this semester. We are here to make a difference. Together, we will have the opportunity to help people in our world experience God.
3. Ask if there are any questions.
4. This is optional, but you can ask people to write down on a card what they expect to get out of the group. Collect cards. This may be helpful to you.
5. Leave time for prayer for one another. Communicate that if people are not comfortable praying out loud, they won't be required to.
6. Talk, eat, dismiss on time.
7. I don't recommend using the first meeting for the first lesson. Why?
  - a. Many haven't gotten their books yet.
  - b. Be intentional about connecting people relationally. Take time for this. Have fun! People learn more and attend more when they are connected relationally.
  - c. Take time to lay the ground work for a strong group. Moving people into serving is as important as your curriculum or activity, so take time with this.
  - d. After the group, get feedback from those with whom you lead.

## **NOTES**

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## MEMBER AGREEMENT

### Welcome to LifeGroups at Victory!

As a member of this group, you will be asked to enter into an agreement with the other members to make this LifeGroup a healthy place where everyone can grow. This agreement also helps to clarify expectations for your time together. Spiritual growth takes commitment and action. We ask you to understand the following commitments:

- 1. Be there.** I will make this group a priority by attending, participating in discussions, and keeping up with outside reading or study. This will help me get the most spiritual growth out of my LifeGroup experience.  
-If I can't attend a group meeting or event, I'll let my leader know ahead of time.
- 2. Respect for others.** I will show respect to others in my LifeGroup by keeping confidences, following the leadership, listening, not dominating conversation, and giving others the room they need to grow. Civility is our standard among LifeGroup members. Work to ask questions and understand the viewpoint of others. We walk hand in hand around the gospel even when we don't see eye to eye on each lesser issue.
- 3. Worshipping together.** I will be a part of the ministry of Victory by making corporate worship a priority, by contributing, by serving and inviting others. I understand that my LifeGroup is an integral part of Victory Church and meets as a part of the larger body. *(This applies to those who are a part of Victory Church. Those who don't attend any church are invited to check out our Sunday and Monday worship experiences).*
- 4. Group life is a shared responsibility.** We all have something needed to contribute by the use of our time and gifts. Roles such as prayer, bringing snacks, caring for each other outside the group, planning the outreach, and even leading the discussion are shared so we all are equipped and growing in our gifts and purposes.
- 5. Growth by serving others.** I will make every effort to participate in the once-a-semester service project of my group.



## LEADER AGREEMENT

As a LifeGroup leader you will be viewed by those in your group as a leader in our church. This is truly one of the most important leadership roles in Victory as you are on the frontlines of carrying out the vision of Victory. Your life will be viewed as an example of someone who follows Christ. As a result, we ask you to enter into agreement with the other LifeGroup leaders and Victory by making the following commitments:

1. I will embody and reflect the values and principles of Victory and will follow the leadership of the Staff.
2. I will faithfully attend corporate worship at Victory and
  - a. Intentionally identify and greet those in my LifeGroup on Sundays
  - b. Participate in the spiritual life of Victory by my financial giving
3. I will make my LifeGroup ministry a priority by:
  - a. Faithfully attending my LifeGroup
  - b. Finishing my leadership commitment until the conclusion of the semester
  - c. Preparing beforehand for my group
  - d. Inviting and welcoming newcomers to my group
  - e. Responding to the leadership of my coach
4. I understand that I am responsible for the care and development of my LifeGroup, as a result I will:
  - a. Pray for the individuals in my group
  - b. Provide follow up for the people in my group whether present or absent
  - c. Lead my group in providing care for one another
  - d. Intentionally develop the gifts and callings of people in group by sharing roles and raising up new leaders
5. I will strive to create a healthy environment for growth in my LifeGroup by:
  - a. Involving as many people as possible in group life: discussion, social activities and especially leadership development
  - b. Creating a safe, comfortable, respectful and welcoming environment for every individual
  - c. Leading my group in a once-a-semester community service project.



## 10 BEST ICE BREAKERS

Except for your first meeting, an ice breaker should only take about 10 to 15 minutes of your meeting time. This is an important time to help people transition from commute, work, and life to focusing on the Lord. Don't skip it!

- 1. What's in common.** Get in groups of 2 or 3 and give the group 2 minutes to find 10 things in common. They can't use things like body parts (noses, etc.)
- 2. Heroes.** In groups of 2 or 3, Name 3 heroes past or present and why you like them.
- 3. If you could...**
  - a. Travel anywhere, where would you go?
  - b. Be a guest on a tv show, which one would it be?
  - c. Live in a past time, when would it be, and why?
  - d. Eat any food for lunch, what would it be?
- 4. Would you rather:**
  - a. Read a book or watch a movie?
  - b. Read minds or be invisible?
  - c. Own a cat or a dog?
  - d. Be smart or be strong?
- 5. If you were a, what would you be?**
  - a. A dog, which breed?
  - b. A celebrity, who?
  - c. A vegetable, which one?
  - d. Car, which one?
6. Have everyone in your group share their name with an adjective before it which starts with the same letter and describes them. *Example: Charming Cassandra*
7. What is the weirdest fact about yourself?
8. Where did you live in 5th grade and what did you do for fun?
9. If you were the first lady or first gentlemen, what would be your platform (for example, literacy...)
10. What is your best moment from the past week?



## FACILITY USE

- 1. Doors**  
Unlock at 6pm on weeknights due to VELA. (*Victory Early Learning Academy closes at 6pm*)
- 2. Kitchen use**
  - Paper goods are available to you in the church kitchen just inside the door to the right. (*We do ask that food, drink and supplies from outside not be placed in the kitchen*)
  - All dishes/utensils are properly washed.
  - Please rinse out the coffee carafes with the proper cleaner (not dish soap) and be sure to pump water through the carafe with lid closed and then remove all water. PLEASE do not immerse the carafes.
- 3. Room clean up**  
Please clean up your room and remove any items on the tables. Wipe down tables, as needed. Unplug any portable heaters in your room.
- 4. Group not meeting**  
Please email me or call the church office - this affects the custodial schedule.  
Church office: 610-676-0422/beth@getvictory.net
- 5. Inclement weather**
  - Please develop a system to let your group know that the church will be closing early.
  - Leaders will be informed through email by 2pm if the building will be closing.
- 6. Flexibility**  
This building gets a ton of use. Thanks ahead of time for your flexibility with set up, etc. Our facilities team will do their best, but sometimes things get moved.
- 7. Facility concerns**  
Please send any concerns to Beth.
- 8. Room assignments**
  - We based these assignments on signup numbers, etc.
  - All rooms either have TV/DVD mounted or a mobile cart available for use
- 9. Childcare**
  - Monday (Kids ministry), Wednesday, Friday p.m. and Wednesday a.m.
  - Not meeting/do not need care - please email marybeth@getvictory.net
- 10. Last Session Date**  
Email me your last session date at least 2 weeks prior

### Online LifeGroups

1. Online groups are a great option for parents, those traveling for work and for those with tighter schedules or health issues.
2. Victory has limited Zoom accounts for use of LifeGroup leaders. Contact the LifeGroup pastor if you need to use one.
3. Right Now Media is a free resource with hundreds of curriculum options. It also has online group capabilities (*but no break out rooms*). Go to our [getvictory.net/life-groups](http://getvictory.net/life-groups) to find the link to your free membership.

# LIFE GROUPS

## THE VISION & VALUES OF VICTORY



### Experience God

*You are loved by a God who is real*

- Worship is not just something we do, it's who we are.
- We gather weekly to experience God's love in a fresh way and to express our love to Him.

**Key verses:** Romans 12:1-2, John 4:23 and 24, Psalm 42:2



### Be the Church

*You Have an Important Place in God's Family*

- When we grow in relation to God as worshipers, we also grow in connection with other believers.
- Care of his family takes place best in the context of the relationships built through LifeGroups.
- We are generous people, meeting the needs of individuals and the church.

**Key verses:** Acts 2:42-47, Acts 4:32-35, and Hebrews 10:24 and 25

### KEY VISION: Victory Church exists to welcome our world into an experience with God and the care of his family.

- The local church is the hope of the world. Because of Jesus' presence among his gathered community, it's our hope, too.
- Every individual is infinitely valuable to God and to us.
- Victory Church's mission flows out of worshipping God together and LifeGroup relationships.



### Impact Your World

*You Were Made to Make a Difference*

- Your world is where God has given you unique connections with and responsibility for other people.
- God has called you into an amazing partnership with himself.
- Regular prayer for those who do not yet follow Jesus is a part of our lives.
- The church is the only organization that exists for the people not yet in it.
- Some people are ready to serve with you before they are ready to worship with you.
- Victory people are inviters. We invite people we know to serve and to worship.

**Key verse:** Matthew 5:16



### Empower One Another

*You Have God-given Influence*

- As disciples growing together, we are always considering how to help each other grow.
- We believe that God calls each of his followers to do significant ministry that glorifies him, builds his church, and serves as a witness to our world.
- People need you to see in them what they don't see in themselves.
- I see in you (ICNU). Intentionally equip others for ministry.
- Give ministry away. An invitation to serve is an invitation to greatness.

**Key verses:** Galatians 6:10 and Matthew 28:19



