RIGHTNOW MEDIA
IS OUR FAVORITE WAY TO RESOURCE YOU AND YOUR GROUP.

Today, all our Group Assistants will be trained to access this online library of curriculum. If you are a Group Leader without an Assistant, be sure to send your spouse (when applicable) to the Assistant training or arrange a time with a techie member of our Admin Team to receive the training you need.

Admin Team Techies:
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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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<td>Sunday, Jan 11</td>
<td><strong>GROUP PROMOTION SUNDAYS!</strong> Get your group into the catalog, know your group number and personally invite anything that moves!</td>
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<td>Sunday, Jan 18</td>
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<td>Sunday, Jan 25</td>
<td><strong>GROUPS LAUNCH THIS WEEK</strong> Get things started with a potluck or another fun way to break the ice &amp; get your group mingling.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, Jan 28</td>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDCARE STARTS</strong> From 6:15-8:45pm in the GFCC Nursery facilities. Grade school age kids are invited to AWANA in the same timeframe. Suggested donation: $2/child $6/family maximum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Jan 29</td>
<td><strong>THURSDAY NIGHT CHILDCARE STARTS</strong> From 6:15-8:45pm in the GFCC Nursery facilities. Suggested donation: $2/child $6/family maximum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, Feb 20</td>
<td><strong>THE THANK-YOU BANQUET (6PM)</strong> GFCC is better because of you and we want to celebrate your partnership in all God is doing here! Join us for great food, fun activities, and an encouraging message from Guest Speaker Bob Grimm.</td>
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<td>March 19-21</td>
<td><strong>ADVANCE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE</strong> A dynamic and strengthening leadership weekend hosted at City Church in Billings. We’ll be joined by Pastor Eugene Cho of Quest Church in Seattle. <a href="http://www.AdvanceWithUs.net">www.AdvanceWithUs.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 13</td>
<td><strong>LAST NIGHT OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDCARE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 14</td>
<td><strong>LAST NIGHT OF THURSDAY NIGHT CHILDCARE</strong></td>
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**WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUP LEADERS:**
Please be sure to allow at least one week of flexibility in your group plan. It is not uncommon for the church to schedule a worship night late in the spring semester.
LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR AGENDA

8:45AM    REGISTRATION
           CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

9:00AM    WORSHIP

9:20AM    Examining the Covenant & Commitment

9:30AM    Break Into Coach Huddles
           Ice-Breaker

9:40AM    General Session

10:00AM   Snack Break
           Time to Review Your Commitment

10:30AM   Breakout Session
           Leaders with their Connection Coaches
           Assistants & Hosts with CG Admin Team

11:30AM   Gather in Sanctuary for Worship
           Covenant & Closing

11:45AM   Commissioning Group Leaders, Assistants & Hosts

12:00PM   Training Ends
KEY TIMES FOR CARE

* Showers
If someone in your group is having a baby or getting married, rally your group to make sure a shower is taking place. The leader isn’t “required” to personally plan the shower. As the leader, you will simply make sure it is happening; whether your group covers every detail or others outside the group are involved. The showers should be as close to the event as possible.
1) When planning a shower, **call the church office to check available dates** (or find a home as a host location) and then **let your Connection Coach know** that you have it covered.
2) Baby showers: are for the **first child born** while the family is at GFCC
3) **Showers will not be advertised** in the GFCC bulletin, video, or website so make sure invitations are well planned.

* Cards for Births & Hospitalization
We send a personal greeting card to people in the hospital and those having babies. Please ALWAYS call the church office to make sure Pastor Nate or Pastor Lee is aware of the situation (please don’t assume that we know). **Speak to Cathy Welter in the church office (727-4849) to make sure a card is sent.**

DON’T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY to motivate your group toward encouragement & care as the person and their family cope with the challenges of hospitalization.

* “Meals on Wheels”
When a baby is born, **we want to provide a minimum of 3 meals** in a timely manner that is convenient for the family. This can also apply to an extended illness. When you are aware of such a situation, please contact the church office to **notify the pastoral staff and rally your Connection Group to supply the meals** necessary. If your group is unable to meet the full need, notify Cathy Welter in the GFCC office (727-4849).

* Help With Moves
Moving can be a stressful time for anyone. When one of your group members is preparing for a move, be sure to show the care & support that the Body of Christ is called to! Get your group involved in the process, and other groups too, if necessary. When someone is moving away from Great Falls, be sure to honor them with a picnic or potluck to say goodbye. Always remind the pastoral staff of their last Sunday at GFCC so we can pray for them at the end of the service. Along with your Connection Group, we’ll lay hands on them and send them off with blessings.
NOTES FOR BREAKOUT SESSION

ASSISTANTS AND HOSTS WILL JOIN THE ADMIN TEAM IN CLASSROOM A1

GROUP LEADERS WILL FOLLOW THEIR COACHES TO THE FOLLOWING AREAS:
- HOLLOWAYS / ROOM B1 - ALLENS / ROOM B2
- FRICKS / ROOM B3 - SCHULTS / ROOM B4
- HATCHNERS, FLEMINGS AND DWIGHT SMITH WILL REMAIN IN THE SANCTUARY
CURRICULUM
CHOOSE YOUR STUDY SOON TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING!

1. **RIGHTNOW TRAINING** IS A FANTASTIC RESOURCE WITH THOUSANDS OF STUDIES
   - easy to view anywhere you can get online
   - show to your Connection Group with a large computer monitor or tether a mobile device (iPod, iPad, Android tablet or Smart Phone) to your TV
   - easy to order books & study guides ([Links you to a website for purchases](#))
   - easy for your Connection Coach to preview and approve your choice
   - we will not publish your study choice **until it is approved by your Coach**

2. **Only Use Studies from Rightnow Media or the Curriculum Guide (available online)**
   - we want to be intentional about continually including new leaders & choosing studies from the Curriculum Guide assures us that they will use a doctrinally sound study
   - this approach also protects us from Leaders expecting reimbursement after purchasing their own study
   - suggestions welcome! Submit ideas to your Connection Coach

3. **OR Conduct a Bible Study (IT'S A GREAT IDEA TO GET BACK TO THE BIBLE!)**
   - please discuss subject matter with your Connection Coach
   - consider chatting with a GFCC Pastor to learn best practices & tools

4. **When Ordering Study Materials**
   - talk to your group about payment & collect payment up front
   - remember shipping costs & shipping time (usually 1-2 weeks) when ordering
   - rally your group to assist those who need it (being sensitive & discreet)
   - be aware of return policies
   - expedited shipping is always available

**PROBLEMS?**
Let your Connection Coach know if you’re having difficulty
AND
contact our techie
**John Mack (661-889-6291 / mackspace@gmail.com)**
When you visit the above web address, you can:
- see who has signed up for your group
- invite someone from the GFCC database that hasn’t signed up for your group
- automatically add someone to your group that wants to attend
- easily contact individuals or the entire group
- get other contact information for all the people in your group
- see their photos (in many cases) in case you don’t know them yet (including Facebook profiles when we have them)
- access an online GFCC directory (for those who have opted into it)
- use this page to easily submit your weekly attendance
- give a financial contribution to GFCC and/or schedule ongoing giving

In order to do so, you’ll need to login:
- go to the above web address and enter the email address you have given us on your Connect Card
- choose a password you’ll remember
- save this page on your “favorites” so you can find it again

Please feel free to:
- give your group members the web address above so they can set up their own login, access the group info, access the online directory and online giving
- ask us for any assistance in this entire process

PROBLEMS?
Let your Connection Coach know if you’re having difficulty
AND
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John Mack (661-889-6291 / mackspace@gmail.com)
NATE’S 4 FAVORITE ICE-BREAKERS
NO GROUP is too mature for these!

1. “The Tree”

This is a very simple & effective tool to help people clarify, in a very short amount of time, where they see themselves presently (in life, in marriage, in school, in Christianity or however you want to apply it). The simple illustration just seems to click with people.

AVAILABLE TODAY UPON REQUEST

2. “What’s On Your Mind?”

Separate your group into 2 teams & come prepared with a list of random categories, such as “an American president, a pet, a person in the church, a super hero, a worship song, etc”. Make sure each person has a stack of paper (one for each category on your list). Ask them to write down the first thing that comes to mind as you read, item by item, your list aloud. Give adequate time between each item for people to write down their answers. Once the list is complete, go back over your list and have each team reveal what they wrote. The team with the most identical matches wins the game.

3. “I Have Never”

Great, active game for a younger (or younger at heart!) group. Have a person stand in the middle of the seating area. All seats must be occupied so one person is forced to stand (ala: “Musical Chairs”). The person in the middle announces to the group something they’ve never done (“I’ve never been to Disneyland”, “...broken a bone”, “...smoked a cigarette”, etc) and all those who have had the experience get up out of their seats and scramble for a new one, as well as the person who was standing in the middle. After everyone else has their seats, the person that couldn’t get a chair must then take their place in the center & announce to the group what they “have never” and so it continues.
4. “A Unique Question”

The most straightforward approach. Simply open things up with a question. Introduce the question by asking people take turns stating their name (even though it’s on their name tag) and giving a brief answer to the question. You, your co-leader, assistant and/or host can have a few answers ready to go so others have time to give thoughtful answers. Here are some examples:

- What’s your dream job?
- What day of your past would you re-live if you could & why?
- With what famous person, dead or alive, would you want to spend the day?
- Of which personal achievement are you most proud?
- What’s the best thing you can cook?
- Who was your childhood hero & why?
- What’s a fear you’ve overcome?
- Would you rather “ARGH” after each sentence you hear or drool as you speak?
- What concert, at any time & place in history, would you most want to attend?
- If money and time were no object, what would you be doing right now?
- What is the strangest thing you’ve ever eaten?
- What’s your favorite website, and why?
- During your free time would you rather be alone or with a group?
- If you had to be allergic to something, what would you choose it be?

NATE’S 10 FAVORITE WAYS TO INVOLVE THE WHOLE GROUP

- rotate the group location (only if you have GREAT communication!)
- have someone manage email updates/prayer requests
- ask someone to make reminder calls, send reminder texts/emails
- get someone to take attendance so you know who needs the update
- assign someone to organize snacks & motivate the group to contribute
- get a volunteer to manage a private group Facebook page
- find a techie to provide technical help (cue the video, run the remote...)
- have someone take photos consistently
- make sure someone coordinates pens, name tags, study materials, etc
- delegate a stickler to watch the time & give a 15-minute warning for the target end time of group, leaving time for prayer
Great Falls Christian Center

Connection Groups

Group Assistant Responsibilities

1. Pray for Group members every day.

2. Coordinate practical elements of your Connection Group:
   a. Send reminder emails/texts about the Group’s plans about 3 days before each meeting.
   b. Distribute prayer requests within 2 days following each week’s gathering.
   c. Take Group Attendance each week and submit before the next group gathering.

3. Facilitate Connection Group discussion once or twice a semester.

4. Pray earnestly about leading a Connection Group in the next semester.

Group Host Responsibilities

1. Pray for Group members every day.

2. Provide an orderly and welcoming environment in which the Group can meet.

3. Recruit members to provide snacks.
Connection Coach Responsibilities

1. Pray for Group Leaders every day.

2. Communicate with Group Leaders once a week by phone, email or in person.

3. Provoke, encourage, & advise your Group Leaders in Connecting, Growing, Giving efforts.

4. Meet with Group Leaders once a month.

5. Form new Connection Groups once a semester.

Connection Group Leader Responsibilities

1. Pray for Group members every day.

2. Facilitate Group discussion once a week.

3. Provoke, encourage, & advise your Group in Connecting, Growing, Giving efforts.

4. Meet with Connection Coach once a month.

5. Recommend at least one new leader from your group each semester.
Thank you for serving as a Connection Group Leader/Assistant/Host at Great Falls Christian Center!

As a Connection Group Leader/Assistant/Host you will be viewed by those in your group as a leader in the church. As a result, we ask that you enter into covenant with the other Connection Group Leaders/Assistants/Hosts by making the following commitments:

1. I will embody and reflect the values and principles of Great Falls Christian Center and will follow the leadership of the Pastoral Staff.

2. I will faithfully attend GFCC on Sundays and:
   * Intentionally identify and greet those in my Connection Group.
   * Participate in the church through my financial giving.

3. I will make my Connection Group a priority by:
   * Faithfully attending my Connection Group.
   * Preparing beforehand for my group each week.
   * Inviting/welcoming others to join my group.

4. I understand that I am responsible for the care of my Connection Group. As a result I will:
   * Pray for the individuals in my group.
   * Follow up with each person in my group.
   * Lead my group in providing care for one another.

5. I will strive to create an environment of growth in my group by:
   * Involving as many people as possible in group discussion.
   * Creating a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment.
   * Beginning and ending on time.

____________________________________    ______________________
Name                Date
Thank you for serving as a Connection Coach at Great Falls Christian Center!

As a Connection Coach there are expectations and responsibilities that go beyond those of a Connection Group Leader. As such, you will be viewed as one of the key leaders of Great Falls Christian Center’s Connection Groups.

As a Connection Coach you are asked to enter into covenant with the other Connection Coaches to make this ministry a priority. To be a Connection Coach, you are asked to make the following commitments:

1. **I will embody and reflect the values and principles of Great Falls Christian Center and will follow the leadership of the Pastoral Staff.**
   This includes:
   * Striving to live a godly life
   * Attending Sunday services regularly
   * Giving in a God-honoring way

2. **I understand that I am responsible for the care of the Connection Group Leaders who are assigned to me.**
   As a result, I will:
   * Pray for each of them daily
   * Personally contact each of them weekly
   * Meet with my team together monthly (Connection Group Huddle).

3. **I will make attending monthly Connection Coach meetings a priority.**

4. **Each semester I will assist the Connection Group Pastor in recruiting new Connection Group Leaders and in setting up new Connection Groups.**

5. **I will make it a priority to participate in Connection Group preparation, promotion, and support.**

______________________________________    ______________________
Name                Date

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WHY YOU NEED A COACH

1. Some personalities often feel the need for support, guidance or encouragement. But what’s the point of keeping in touch with your Coach even when you don’t have these feelings?

- accountability
- approved directions/decisions
- staying informed of GFCC values, decisions and events
- reporting good testimonies from the group
- reporting troubling needs for prayer in the group

2. What discussions would be appropriate to have with a Coach that are inappropriate to have in your small group?

- venting
- complaining
- confessing serious sin, etc.

3. In some cases, your Coach may not seem any more experienced, mature of gifted than you. How is it possible for them to be a valuable resource anyway?

- They are informed, connected, and directly accountable to a Pastor.
- God honors the delegation of authority.
- God anoints those who have accepted responsibility.