

Fact Sheet:: Becoming a Vineyard Kinship Group Leader:

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If you are considering serving as a Kinship Group Leader at the Vineyard Church of Ithaca, this fact sheet is designed to help you understand:

- 1) The process of becoming a Kinship Group Leader
 - 2) What is required to become a Kinship Group Leader
 - 3) The commitments we expect of our Kinship Group Leaders.
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The Process:

- 1) **Talk to Your Leader:** If you are interested in becoming a Kinship Group Leader at the Vineyard, the first thing to do is express your interest to your current Kinship Group Leader.
 - *(If you are not currently in a kinship, your first step is to join one next time around. Even if you have had years of experience leading small groups previously, we only start new kinship groups with people who are currently in kinship groups.)*
- 2) **Serve as a Kinship Group Coordinator:** If your Kinship Group Leader supports this idea, they may suggest having you serve as a Kinship Group Coordinator next semester. This will allow you to go through Kinship Group Leader training, as well as monthly meetings so that you can begin to learn more about Vineyard Kinship Groups. You will also have opportunity to lead the kinship at various times over the next semester.
- 3) **Apply to Lead a Group:** After you have served as a Kinship Group Coordinator, you can apply to serve as a Kinship Group Leader. The application is available online at ithacavineyard.org/kinship-leader-application/
- 4) **Meet with a Vineyard Leader:** Once your application is completed, a member of the Vineyard Church of Ithaca leadership team will contact you to discuss your application. During this discussion, we will discuss items on your application as well as other issues related to leading a Ithaca Vineyard Kinship Group.
- 5) **After the interview, you will either:**
 - a. Be invited to lead a kinship group in the upcoming semester
 - b. Offered coaching in potential growth areas to help you get ready to lead in the future.

*****Although you will only need to go through this process once, Kinship Group Leader is not a permanent position. We ask people to serve on a semester by semester basis.***

If you have any questions about this process, please talk to your kinship leader.

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The Requirements:

At the Vineyard Church of Ithaca, we believe that leadership is not a “position” or a “title” to strive for. Rather leadership is an opportunity to serve Jesus Christ and His church. At the Vineyard, we ask for a high level of maturity and commitment from all who lead here.

The following requirements need to be in place before we will consider someone for a Kinship Group Leader:

1) You must be a member in good standing at the Vineyard Church of Ithaca.

We will allow a person to lead 1 time without being a member, under the following conditions:

- They are currently meeting all membership requirements
- They agree to attend Discovering the Vineyard, and become a member within the next 4 months.

2) As a member of the Ithaca Vineyard, you are:

- 1) Attending Sunday worship services faithfully;
- 2) Part of an ongoing service (ministry team).

3) You must be giving at least a full tithe (10%) to the Vineyard Church of Ithaca.

4) You must complete a criminal background check. (For the safety of all who are part of the Ithaca Vineyard, all staff, leaders, and Vineyard kids workers submit to a criminal background check.) If you have concerns about this, please talk to your kinship leader, or a Vineyard pastor.

Ongoing Commitments as a Vineyard Kinship Group Leader:

Commitments you make to the Ithaca Vineyard and it's leaders:

1) Embody and support the values, missions and principles of the Vineyard Church of Ithaca.

As a Kinship Group Leader, you lead within the larger Vineyard body, and as such your commitment and concern is for the whole body, not simply the group you are leading. If you have concerns about the mission, values and principles of the Vineyard, we expect you to speak to a leader and work to resolve these issues.

2) Support and follow the pastors and leadership of the Vineyard Church of Ithaca.

We recognize that not everyone is excited about every event, program, or series that takes place at the Vineyard. As a Kinship Group Leader, while we expect you to bring concerns to your kinship coach or other Vineyard leader, we also expect that you will not only support the direction of the Ithaca Vineyard, but that you will encourage those in your group to as well.

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- 3) Attend Kinship Group Leader Training
- 4) Attend Monthly Kinship Group Leader Meetings
- 5) Regularly Attend Sunday Worship Services, and Vineyard Special Events
And while there:
 - Intentionally identify and greet those in my kinship group
 - Invite others to join my group.
 - Lead your group in serving when you are on the Sunday service team.
- 6) Serve at least 1 - 2 times per semester on the Sunday Morning Prayer Team.
If you have not yet completed the Discovering Prayer Class, you will need to do that prior to serving on the prayer team, and prior to leading a Kinship Group for a second semester.
- 7) Complete the Discovering Maturity Class (Vineyard 201) within 1 year of leading a kinship group for the first time.
- 8) Communicate with Kinship Coach or Pastoral Staff any problems, issues, concerns with the group or an individual that he/she feels need to be addressed, known, or prayed for.
- 9) Sign the Kinship Group Leader Covenant

We ask you to make the following commitment to your kinship group and it's members:

I will:

- 1) Faithfully attend my Kinship Group.
- 2) Prepare for my group and pray for it's members each week.
- 3) Follow up meticulously with each person in my group.
- 4) Lead my group in providing care for one another.
- 5) Lead my group in at least 1 Servant Evangelism project per semester.
- 6) Ensure that at least 1 fun event is scheduled per semester.
- 7) Involve as many people as possible in group discussion.
- 8) Create a safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment.
- 9) Begin and end on time.
- 10) Lead group through the Kinship Covenant at first meeting of semester.
- 11) Raise up new leaders from within my group.

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Notes about selecting a curriculum for your group:

At times, (no more than 1 semester/year) we may have all kinship groups go through a book or series together. Generally, this will be tied to our Sunday morning service as well. Except for very specific exceptions (e.g. Recovery Group), all Kinship Groups will go through the same material.

During the other semesters, a kinship leader has a far greater latitude in selecting curriculum. We will provide you with a list of pre-approved materials and resources. If you would like to work through a curriculum that is not on this list, you will need to consult with a pastor to receive prior approval.

If you are working through a portion of scripture (the book of Hebrews, the Beatitudes, the Psalms, etc,) you will need to provide a syllabus, as well as specific commentaries and study aids that you are using to a pastor, at least 6 weeks before the semester starts.

The purpose of the above requirement is to ensure that teaching within our kinship groups is in alignment with Vineyard values and theology.

Leading for the 1st time:

When you lead for the first time, we will ask you to select for a group of books including.

- Naturally Supernatural
- Power Healing
- Outflow
- Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

Not only are these important books that we want people in the Vineyard familiar with, they come with good small group discussion aids that will be a major help.

Selecting Your Team:

At the Vineyard Church of Ithaca, we believe very strongly in the idea of team based ministry. Therefore, we do not want the Kinship Group Leader to take on any other responsibilities in his/her group, other than those outlined above.

As a Kinship Group Leader, you will work with a kinship host, kinship worship leader, and a kinship coordinator. While, you are welcome to find these individuals on your own, we are willing and able to help you locate them if you would like.