

# Southside Group Leader Step by Step Guide

## Contents

### Getting Started

Southside Groups	3
Build Your Group	3
Pick The Type Of Group You Will Lead	3
Decide When And Where You Will Meet	3
Virtual Group Options	4
Choose Your Southside Group Study	5
Be a Light	5
To Be A Southside Group Leader You Must	5
Promotion	5
Sign Up To Be A Southside Group Leader	5

### Tools

Southside Group Map (Courthouse location)	6
Southside Group Outline Guide	10
Southside Group Outline	12
Leadership Development	13
Your Testimony Guide	15
Southside Church Essentials	17
RightNow Media Sign-Up	19
Southside Group Study Picks	20
Covid-19	22
Southside Group Cleaning Process	23
Manage Your Group	24
Prayer Guidance	25
Touchy Topics and Applying Grace	27

Ice Breaker Questions ..... 30

Bible Apps ..... 32

Bible Reading Plan ..... 34

Child Care ideas ..... 35

Southside Group Service Project Guide ..... 36

Service Project Outline ..... 38

Service Celebration Form ..... 36



# Getting Started

## Southside Groups

All groups will start and end in the same week. You choose the day of week and time that works for you. Extra time is allotted for missed weeks and can be filled with initial Meet & Greet, [Table Talk](#), [Filler Studies](#), Fellowship or [Service Projects](#).

- January (Winter Session): Second Monday in January – First Monday in May (17 weeks)
- May (Summer Session): Second Monday in May – First Monday in August (13 Weeks)
- September (Fall Session): Monday after Labor Day in September – First Monday in January (17 weeks)

**All Southside Group Leader are members of Southside Church and background checked.**

[Become a Member](#)

[Fill Out Background Check Form](#)

## Build Your Group

First choose your co-leader. Next, you and your co-leader should start talking to your friends, family and neighbors about joining your new group. If you can each find one person to join, you have a group! As you move forward, your goal is to get each participant to invite at least one person. Not going over 10 participants is a good way to keep the group successful and effective. If your group begins to grow larger, it may be a good idea to split into smaller groups for discussion.

## Pick The Type Of Group You Will Lead

**Virtual Groups:** These groups meet entirely online. More information on page 4.

**In-Person Groups:** These groups meet in a person's home that follows all CDC guidelines including social distancing, cleaning process, and mask mandate.

**Fusion Groups (recommended):** These groups combine virtual and in-person meetings. It could be some people meeting in-person while others are online or alternating between online and in-person.

## Decide When And Where You Will Meet

All types of groups will pick the best day of the week and time that will meet needs of your group. Groups that meet in-person can choose to meet in your home or a members home. Many groups like to alternate host homes. Other options could be a library, or possibly a quiet restaurant with a back room. Where you meet should be a place where your group is able to hear well, have enough room to spread out and have minimal distractions or interruptions.



## Virtual Groups

**Rightnow MEDIA:** This feature will only work for rightnow MEDIA studies. It is simple to use. Choose your study and select the session you wish to watch, select "Watch as a Virtual Group" and follow the instructions.

Staying connected to friends, family, and small groups has never been easier. Watch content together on RightNow Media with our new groups feature. One person can play, pause, and rewind videos for the entire group. Everyone can use the chat window as the video plays, then discuss the video as a group with built-in video chat. Use the groups feature to learn, encourage one another, and grow in your faith.

**New Feature: Use the text chat window as the video plays, then see your whole group and discuss the series with the built-in video chat function!**

If you do not have access to the free gift that Southside Church provides of rightnow MEDIA use the link below.

[www.RightNowMedia.org/Account/Invite/southsidecotn](http://www.RightNowMedia.org/Account/Invite/southsidecotn)

**Zoom:** This is another video communication resource that is available. Southside Church has a limited amount of accounts that are available for Southside Group Leaders, upon request. There is also a free option that allows unlimited one-on-one meetings for up to 40 minutes. Zoom has an abundance of video tutorials that provide step-by step instructions on how to use this resource.

[Zoom video tutorials - Zoom Help Center](#)

**Google Hangouts:** This social networking system allows for video call, phone call, and messaging for your group. Their website gives instructions on how to use these features. [Google Hangouts](#)

**FreeConferenceCall.com:** Receive a FreeConferenceCall.com account instantly with just an e-mail and password. Once you sign up, you will be provided with a **Dial-in Number and Access Code** for immediate conferencing, and an **Online Meeting ID** for hosting meetings with Screen Sharing and Video Conferencing.

[FreeConferenceCall.com](http://FreeConferenceCall.com)

## Choose Your Southside Group Study

There are many ways to find the right study for your group. Always start with prayer for guidance in choosing your study. You may choose your own Bible or book study (studies will be approved by the Resource Advisor). You will also find recommended studies in the [Southside Church Study Picks](#) resource. Southside Church offers a free membership to RightNow Media. You will find an abundance of studies through this great resource. [Sign-up for RightNow Media](#) to start looking for a study today. Studies can also be found by visiting [Back to the Bible](#) or you can contact the [Resource Advisor](#) for guidance.

## Explore and sign-up for the [Be a Light](#) program

The [Be a Light](#) program gives you the tools to become a Light for Christ in your neighborhood. Southside Church has joined this ever-growing community of Christ followers who are devoted to being a Light in their neighborhoods through praying for, caring for, sharing the gospel with, and discipling their neighbors.

All the tools to get to know your neighbors by name so that you can begin to build relationships with them are provided. Use your dashboard to track your individual progress with each neighbor. You will even receive optional daily reminder emails with a prayer prompt and 5 neighbors to pray for that day.

## To Be A Southside Group Leader You Must:

1. Be a [Member of Southside Church](#)
2. Have completed a [Background Check Form](#)
3. Be signed-up and have your group attenders sign-up for the [Be a Light](#) program
4. Build leaders from your group. Follow the [Leadership Development Plan](#)
5. Have an understanding of the [Southside Church Essentials](#)
6. Follow all [Covid-19 Guidelines](#) including the [Southside Church Cleaning Process](#)
7. [Manage Your Group](#) including reporting attendance and keeping a roster
8. Serve together. Review the [Southside Church Service Project Guide](#)
9. To help plan your group review the [Southside Group Outline Guide](#)
10. Share relevant tools with your group members

## Promotion

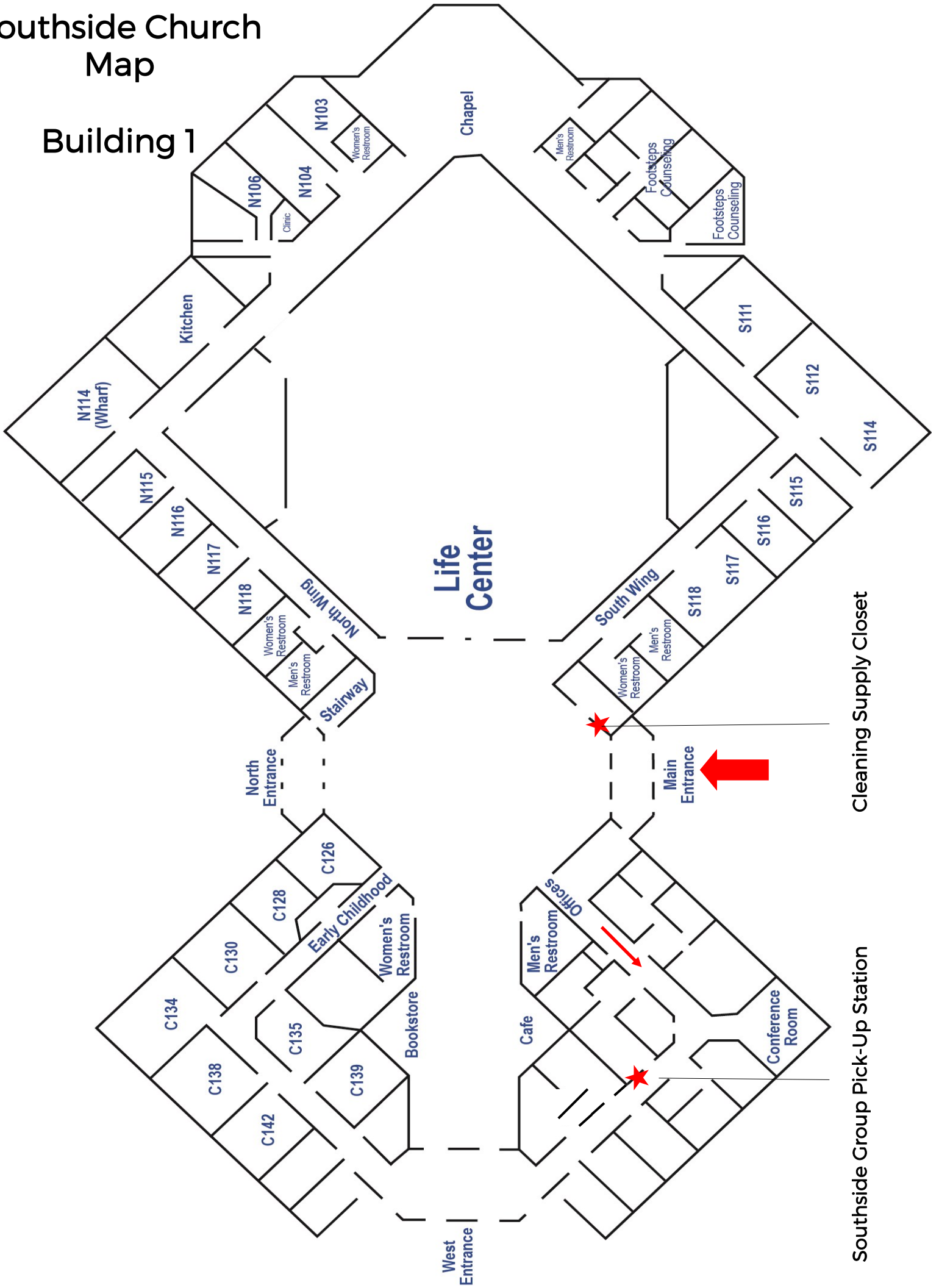
All groups will be promoted at the same time through email, pulpit, and social media. You may [request business cards](#) providing your Southside Group information.

## [Sign-up to be a Southside Group Leader](#)

A pastor will contact you after you have filled out this form.

# Southside Church Map

## Building 1

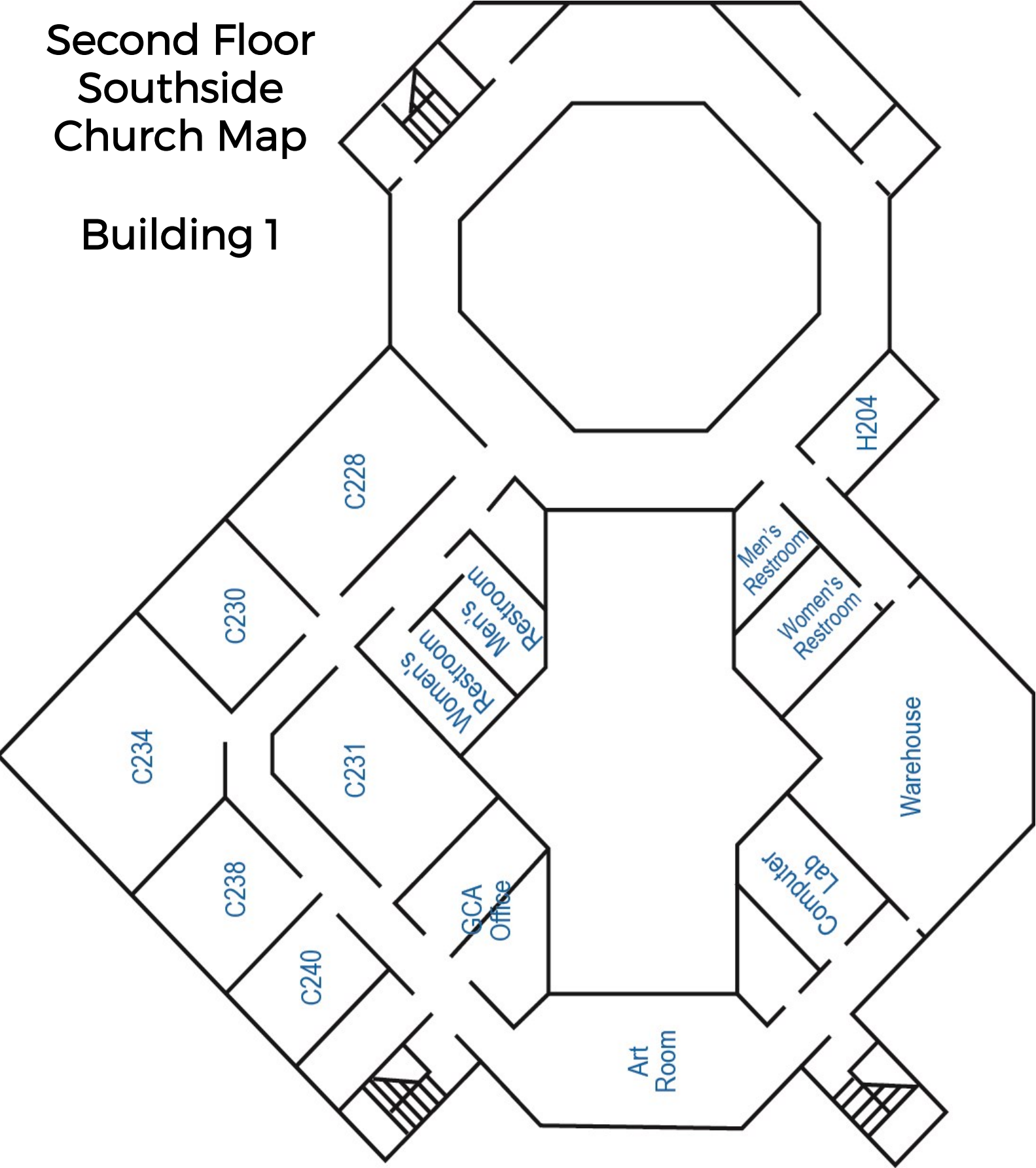


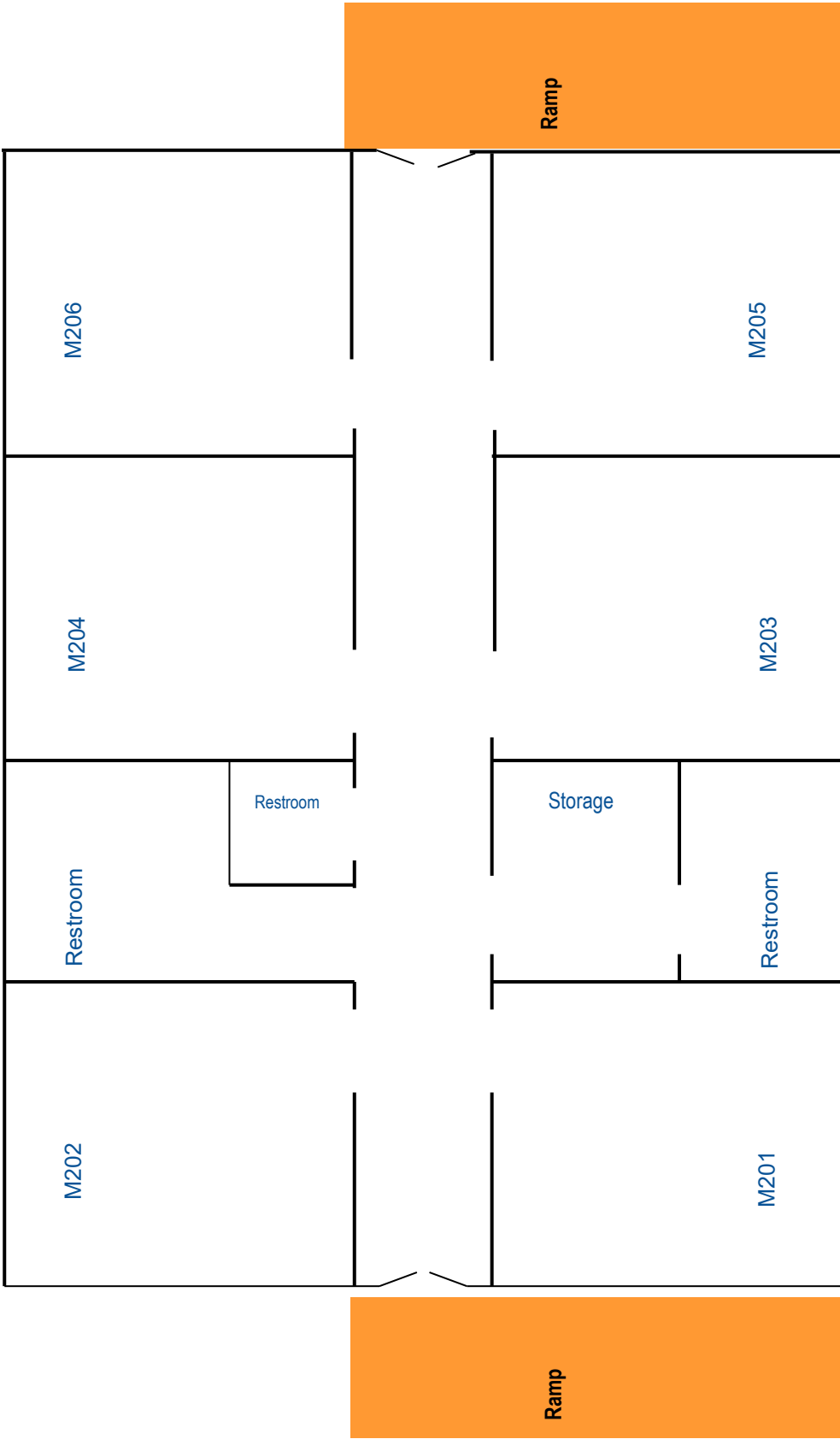
Cleaning Supply Closet

Southside Group Pick-Up Station

# Second Floor Southside Church Map

## Building 1



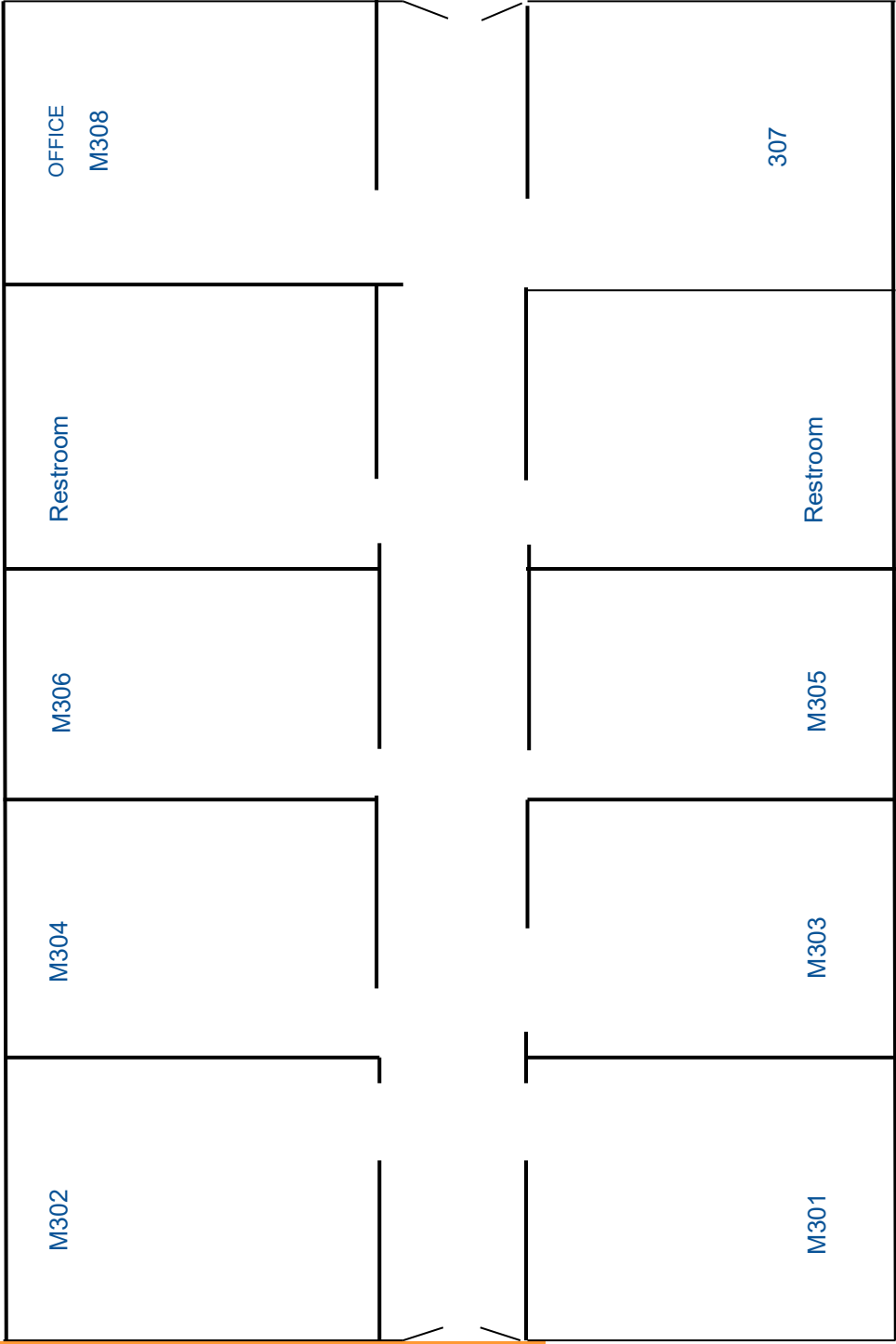


# Southside Church Map

## Building 2



Ramp



Southside  
Church  
Map  
Building 3



# Southside Group Outline Guide

All groups are going to be different and you are the group leader. Even after you write out your group outline you may need to tweak it a little so that it works for you and your group. The guidelines below can be customized to your specific meeting time and style.

A Southside Group gathering are where Christians connect, make friends, study the Bible, and grow spiritually closer to God, while enjoying a place to belong and care for one another.

**Meet and Greet Meeting** This would be a good meeting for refreshments. This is a great time to go around the room and introduce yourselves. Add an ice breaker question from the [Ice Breaker Questions](#). You could go over the expectations of your group members, spend some time praying for your group and future meetings. You could play a game or have open share time. You could also use this time to explain the [Be a Light](#) program. Sign-up for this program together in class. Sign-up must be completed within the first three classes.

**Fellowship Meetings** These meeting should be more about having fun and enjoying each others company. If you are lacking on extra weeks due to your study length, you could have a fellowship night on a different day than your group time. You could have a dinner at someone's house or meet at a restaurant. Depending on the time of year you could set up an outing (apple/strawberry picking, miniature golf or a driving range, picnic, or hiking etc..) the options are endless. Again, have fun and enjoy being together.

## Southside Group

**Before Participants Arrive (15 minutes)** Arrive at least 15 minutes early. If you are meeting in a host home, greet and thank the host for the gathering, if your study has videos, double-check the equipment that will be used, make sure the meeting area is cleaned and set up with chairs and that social distancing is a priority. Have hand sanitizer available and encourage mask wearing.

**As Participants Arrive (15 minutes)** Greet participants, preferably by name, and make new comers feel welcomed, direct them to the area where you will be meeting together, or to the refreshments, and encourage fellowship. This is the time your group will really bond.

**Opening Prayer (2 minutes)** Begin your group with a brief prayer, you can do this before or after the introductions. Thank God for bringing the group together, ask for His presence and guidance as you grow together in this time, as well as guidance with your discussion.

**Introduction (15 minutes)** You want to make all the participants feel as comfortable as possible. Never put anyone on the spot. Going around the room to introduce yourself is fine, but do not make anyone uncomfortable with difficult questions to answer. It's fun to make it simple like, name and favorite color, or favorite animal. Name tags can also be used to help remember names. As you all become more comfortable with each other you can add an icebreaker question to begin the group (icebreaker question ideas are in the resource tab). Then briefly characterize the direction, purpose, focus, or activities of the gathering.

**Southside Study Pick (20- 40 minutes)** Disperse any hand-outs or study guides and play any videos at this time. Follow your study guide or notes you have prepared that follow along with the Southside Study Pick. You should have guided discussion during this time. Try to keep the discussion on topic and cover all of your homework and new video information. Use any of the questions that accompany the video to begin participants' conversation, as you talk together, guide the subject of the conversation from the subject(s) of the video toward participants' own lives. This should move you into conversation time, not a lecture-and-response or a discussion of abstract ideas. The intent of the conversation time is to go deeper and encourage more personal sharing.

**Conclude the Conversation (10 minutes)** This is going to be a time to wrap up the discussion. You will briefly discuss what you will be doing next week and assign homework at this time.

**Closing Prayer (10 minutes)** Offer a brief prayer of thanks for this group of people, for the Spirit's presence and for the wisdom and encouragement that has been shared. You can speak with your co-leader or a person who has been identified as a leader to pray before or after group, but make certain you ask them ahead of time and away from the group. You can also ask participants to join the time of prayer with their own petitions or thoughts if they would like, this way everyone feels safe and not pressured to do something they are not comfortable doing.



# Southside Group Outline

Name of Group (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Where \_\_\_\_\_

When \_\_\_\_\_

Southside Group Study Pick \_\_\_\_\_

Southside Group Service Project \_\_\_\_\_

Before Participants Arrive (\_\_\_\_ minutes)

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As Participants Arrive (\_\_\_\_ minutes)

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Opening Prayer (\_\_\_\_ minutes)

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Introduction (\_\_\_\_ minutes)

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Southside Study Pick (\_\_\_\_ minutes)

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Conclude the Conversation (\_\_\_\_ minutes)

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Closing Prayer (\_\_\_\_ minutes)

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# Southside Group Leader Development Plan

All people are different and this process may vary depending on the person. More or less prep/training may be needed. Always pray before a meeting for new leaders to be present and identified.

## 1. Identify leader(s):

You should be able to identify leaders within the first couple classes.

Choose the leader(s) that will be teaching the next Southside Group session.

Leaders have some biblical understanding

Leaders will be engaged and show interest in the group.

Leaders have the ability to explain ideas easily.

Leaders have good listening skills.

Leaders show empathy and grace.

Leaders take initiative and do not complain

Leaders are punctual

## 2. Guide to Southside Start

### 3. Submit background check

### 4. Become their Leadership mentor

### 5. Connect them to a service or know the service they attend (in-person, on-line, Southside Home)

### 6. Give them leadership roles in the group (start small): opening/closing prayer

### 7. Allow them to lead the group on occasion with your guidance

### 8. Write their testimony

9. Discuss new leader(s) with Team Lead Pastor
10. Discuss and plan for them to lead next Southside Group session
11. Share Leadership Training Videos
12. Increase leadership roles
13. New leader(s) will move into lead position next session

Questions Team Lead Pastor may ask:

Are they a member of Southside Church?

Have they done a background check?

Do they attend services? (or watch online?)

Do they serve?

Family?

Have they written their testimony? Have you reviewed it?

Can I assist you in anyway?



# Your Testimony Guide

This is a guide to help you write your testimony. God's Word tells us,  
2 Corinthians 9:13

*Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with*

Know that your story is God's story. Every single time we share our testimony we are giving honor and glory to God. Our stories represent the character of God. They are our personal experience with the glorious work of God and how He rescued us from sin and death through Jesus Christ, resulting in a changed life.

Sharing our story helps others to get to know what God is like, how much He loves us, and what He can do.

Pray before you write out and share your story. Write just like you speak. Don't be overly negative or positive. Be completely honest. Do not criticize or name any church, denomination, organization, etc. Think about who will be listening to your story. Avoid overly-religious or "churchy" words. Keep it short. Aim for your first testimony to be 3-5 minutes. Practice telling your story until it becomes natural.

## **Always Be ready to Share Your Story**

No matter where you are, in line at the grocery store, with family members, or standing in front of a group of people, the Bible calls us to "always be ready" to explain our hope in Christ with gentleness and respect (1Peter 3:15-16). A little preparation and practice can go a long way.

## Put Your Story Together

There are five basic parts to your story: The Opening, Your Life Before Christ, How You Came to Christ, Your Life after Coming to Christ, and The Closing

### The Opening

Identify a theme that will frame your story. Think about what your life revolved around and how God used it to bring you to Him (your relationships, money, judgment, your reputation etc.) Briefly explain how that influenced your life.

### Your Life Before Christ

Describe what your life was like before you allowed Christ in. Do not emphasize too much on past sin struggles. Share only the details that pertain to your theme - just enough to show your need for Christ.

### How You Came to Christ

Give details on why and how you became a Christian. Try to help others relate to what you are saying within their own lives. Even if the person or people you are talking to are not ready to hear what you have to say, God may use your story and explanation of the gospel to draw them to Him in the future.

### Your Life after Coming to Christ

Share some of the changes that Christ has made in your life. Stick to your theme.

Emphasize the changes in your character, attitude, or perspective, not just mere changes in your behavior. Be realistic. We still struggle as Christians. Life is far from perfect, but what is different about your life now?

### The Closing

End with a statement that summarizes your story and connects everything back to your theme. You can close with a Bible verse that you feel relates to your experience.





# Southside Church Essentials

**Southside Church Essentials** represent the non-negotiable doctrines of Southside Church. We want our leaders to have a good understanding of these Essentials to help guide the discussions to the truth of these Biblical statements

## God

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

*Genesis 1:1,26,27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; I Peter 1:2; II Corinthians 13:14*

## Man

Man is made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. He is the supreme object of God's creation. Although man has tremendous potential for good, he is marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called sin. Sin separates man from God.

*Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2*

## Eternity

Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God, through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are places of eternal existence.

*John 3:16; I John 2:25 & 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15*

## Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. He has dual natures. He is fully God and fully man at the same time. That way he can represent man before God and he can represent God before man. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross. He rose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

*Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5 & 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; I Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; I Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13*

## Salvation

Salvation is a gift from God to all people. Man can never make up for his sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can man be saved from sin's penalty. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

*Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6 & 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1*

### **The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily.

*II Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13 & 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 2:12 & 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18*

### **Prevenient Grace**

We believe that salvation is the work of God through Christ alone. Since man is corrupt by sin and cannot save himself, God provides the grace in advance so that man can have the ability to respond to His offer of salvation. We believe that was created by God with the free will to accept God's offer of salvation or to reject it.

*I John 4:19; John 6:44; John 12:32; Titus 2:11*

### **The Bible**

The Bible is God's Word to all men. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is the complete and full (plenary) inspiration by God, it is truth. The 66 books of the Bible is God's Word; no other books can or should be added or removed.

*II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; II Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160 & 12:6; Proverbs 30:5*



## RightNow Media Sign-Up

(You must sign-up to view the Southside Group Study Picks)

RightNow Media believes the mission of the church matters. Everything done through RightNow Media is rooted in Jesus's promise that God will use His people to change the world.

RightNow Media serves the church, provides Christians across the globe with resources that will inspire them to champion the mission Jesus gave to His people - making disciples of all nations.

Southside Church offers a free membership to RightNow Media to leaders and the Southside Church congregation. If you have not taken advantage of this gift, please do so.

Type this link in your browser

[www.RightNowMedia.org/Account/Invite/southsidecotn](http://www.RightNowMedia.org/Account/Invite/southsidecotn)

or click the link below to sign-up

[Right Now Media Southside Church Sign-up](#)



# Southside Group Study Picks

## Winter Session 2021

January 11 - May 10 (17 weeks)

### [Review ALL Southside Study Picks](#)

Choose your Southside Study from the list below or choose your own. Fill in extra weeks with an initial Meet & Greet, [Table Talk](#), Filler Studies, Fellowship or Service Projects.

#### For All

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Pick 1 - <b>Reboot Recovery: Crisis Edition</b> by Evan Owens (5 weeks) | Study Guide          |
| Pick 2 - <b>The Power to Change</b> by Jennie Allen (6 weeks)           | Study Guide \$       |
| Pick 3 - <b>Your Come Back</b> by Tony Evans (5 weeks)                  | Study Guide/Book \$  |
| Pick 4 - <b>Gospel in Life</b> by Timothy Keller (8 weeks)              | Study Guide \$       |
| Pick 5 - <b>Get Out of Your Head</b> by Jennie Allen (6 weeks)          | Study/Leader/Book \$ |

#### Men

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Pick 5 - <b>Nine Attributes of a Man</b> by Vince Miller (10 weeks) | Study Guide \$     |
| Pick 6 - <b>Be a Godly Man</b> by Joby Martin (5 weeks)             | Study/Leader Guide |

#### Women

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Pick 7 - <b>Warrior Women: Deborah</b> by Bianca Juárez Olthoff (5 weeks) | Study Guide    |
| Pick 8 - <b>What the Women Saw</b> by Sadie Robertson Huff (6 weeks)      | Study Guide \$ |

#### Fillers

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Pick F1 <b>Change: Needing More</b> by Franklin Graham (1 week) |             |
| Pick F2 <b>Redeem the Screen</b> by Kylie Idleman (3 weeks)     | Study Guide |
| Pick F3 <b>Get Wise</b> by Bob Marritt (4 weeks)                | Book \$     |

Fill out the [Sign-up to be a Southside Leader](#) form. Fill out this form to receive your non-purchase Study Guides from the Southside Group Study Pick options or non-purchase study picks of your choice.

Study Guides can be printed through RightNow Media or hard copies can be picked up at the **Southside Group Pick Up Station**, located at the Southside Church Courthouse location (Check [Southside Group Map](#) for location)

If the Study/Leader Guides need to be purchased, you can find them under each study in the [Review ALL Southside Study Picks](#) section. Ask participants to purchase their own study



## COVID-19

A Southside Group is a community where life change occurs through building authentic relationships. God created us for relationships. He said, "It's not good for man to be alone." That's why we're better together.

The recent health emergency surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19) has caught many of us off guard. Being together has become more of a challenge than ever before. What can we do to stay together, but also stay safe?

All Southside Groups are to follow the CDC guidelines for schools as well as follow the [Southside Group Cleaning Process](#). These guidelines and cleaning plan should be practiced at the church or wherever your group may be meeting. It states mask are required in buildings unless you are seated in a room where you can adequately social distance. To achieve this you must be 6 feet apart. Any group that cannot social distance when seated must keep their mask on the whole time.

For groups that are at or exceeding room occupancy mask are required. If there is an adult group in a large room, where they can adequately social distance, then we encourage the Southside Group leader to ensure all members of the group are comfortable if they consider removing mask while seated.



## Southside Group Cleaning Process

Southside Group Promotors are responsible for cleaning their room before and after using. As the leader, social distancing and face covering should be modeled. Please put together an appropriate cleaning process when meeting in homes as well.

1. Walk in the main entrance and stop by the closet just to the right as you walk through the doors.
2. Your supplies will be on the right hand side of this closet as you walk in.
3. Please grab, one hard surface cleaner, and one fabric cleaner, if you are using fabric covered chairs. You will also need a few paper towels. (If the room you are in has cleaner available, just grab the paper towels from the closet)
4. Go down the Office Hall to the Southside Group Pick-Up Station and get one hand sanitizer and a trash bag if you are having food or plan to fill the can.
5. Please refer to the Southside Group Map if you do not know where these areas are.
6. Place hand sanitizer at the door for people to use before and after group.
7. Clean all door handles with hard surface cleaner by spraying on paper towel and wiping down areas.
8. If applicable lightly spray each fabric chair with fabric cleaner. You will want to do this as early as possible to allow time to dry. 10-15 minutes before your group time should be sufficient.
9. Clean all tables and areas that will be touched with hard surface cleaner, again by spraying paper towel and wiping down each area.
10. If in building 1 or 2 use hard surface cleaner to wipe down bathroom door knob, sink faucet handles, toilet handle, and anything that may be or have been touched.
11. Also, as part of this plan we ask that you move chairs 6 feet apart and wear a face mask while not being social distanced and when moving throughout the church.
12. Repeat numbers 7, 8, 9 and 10 when your meeting is over. If applicable, replace trash bag and place trash in the large trash cans in the café or for building 2 & 3, in the trash cans at the entrance door of the building. Return all cleaning products to the closet and shelf you got them from. Make sure to return hand sanitizer to the Southside Group Pick-Up Station.



## Manage Your Group:

Currently, you will receive a reminder email weekly to send in your attendance numbers. This email explains how we would like the attendance formatted.

Please keep a personal roster for yourself so you can keep up with your attenders.

### Big changes will be coming soon!

Soon you will be able to manage attendance, view roster, and make changes to your group online or from your phone. As soon as this is implemented you will find that information on this sheet.

You will be notified when the change occurs, but in the mean time please make it a priority to report your attendance through the email that is sent to you.

If you are not receiving these emails let us know at  
[Southsidegroups@southsidechurchva.org](mailto:Southsidegroups@southsidechurchva.org)





## Prayer Guidance

Here are some prayer topics for your group. Hope you find them helpful!

Pray the Lord's Prayer. Matthew 6:9-13

Pray that every person would become spiritually healthier as a result of participating in your discipleship experience. Ephesians 1:17

Pray that every person in your group finds a really good friend in our church family. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Pray that God gives you vision and direction for your group. Proverbs 29:18

Pray that your group members will "love on" each other. John 13:34-35

Pray that the fruit of the Holy Spirit would increasingly manifest itself in the lives of every person in your group. Galatians 5:22-23

Pray that each one in your group would be led by the Spirit of God in their everyday lives. Romans 8:14

Pray that every member of your group would have a meaningful time with God in prayer and Bible study every day. Isaiah 26:9

Pray that you and each of your group members would be suited up in the full armor of God. Ephesians 6:10-17

Pray that God would fill you and each person in your group with His Spirit. Ephesians 5:18

Pray that each of your group members will grow in their delight and dependence on the Word of God in their daily life. Psalm 1:2-3

Pray for our church's local outreach efforts and ministry partnerships. Matthew 5:6; Luke 10:27

Pray that God would help you know how to cultivate more of a hunger for God's Word in the hearts of your group members. John 21:16

## Prayer Guidance

Pray that each of your group members continually grows in their understanding of the Bible.  
2 Peter 3:18

Pray that each member is empowered to submit to God, resist the devil, and draw near to God.  
James 4:7-8

Pray that every person in your group embraces the Bible for what it really is: The fully-inspired Word of God! 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Pray that each of you would be spiritually alert and strengthened to stand firm against the devil. 1 Peter 5:8-9

Pray that every person would come to a deeper knowledge and stronger conviction about who they are in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Pray that each person discovers their unique set of God-given gifts and is inspired to use them to strengthen our church family. 1 Corinthians 12:7

Pray that every person would be inspired to take one more step in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Colossians 2:6-7

Pray that God will open the hearts of family and friends to hear the message of hope.  
Romans 10:17

Pray that every person would be open to the move of the Holy Spirit in your midst.  
1 Thessalonians 5:19

Pray for God to move powerfully in your ministry. Acts 4:31-35

Pray that each one feels like they fit and connect with others in your group.  
Hebrews 10:25

Pray that God would equip you to help everyone in your group live out the Great Commandment and Great Commission on a daily basis. Ephesians 4:11-13;  
Matthew 22:37-40

Pray that people would trust the Lord with their finances and tithe so they can receive the blessings God wants to bring to their lives. Malachi 3:10

Pray that each person grows in their confidence and ability to share their faith. 1 Peter 3:15

Pray for strength for each of your group members to turn away from sin and pursue godliness.  
1 Timothy 6:11-12

Pray for our church's leadership and for even greater Kingdom impact in the days ahead!  
Acts 2:42-47

Pray that each person would be bold in inviting a friend to join you in your discipleship experience. 2 Timothy 4:5

## Touchy Topics and Applying Grace

### Specific personalities within your group and how you can be a helpful Southside Group Leader

- Dominators

Dominators can and will answer every question and their answers are lengthy. These people are usually very knowledgeable and have kind hearts. They mean well but just lack the skills to keep the meeting on track.

The group will be looking to you to do something. Have the courage to help the Dominator wrap things up. Try finishing their thought for them and then quickly allow someone else to speak. You can do this by looking for quick breaths, no matter how short, to jump in. Keep in mind that dominators are not the enemies, they will bring profound points to the conversation. Talk to Dominators after the meeting with the objective of bringing them in as your ally. Compliment them on their openness and explain the goal of drawing everyone into the discussion, ask for their help to accomplishing this.

- Hiders

Hiders are very easy to ignore because that is their goal. They never bother other members and keep to themselves. They prefer calm environments, limit social engagement, or embraces a greater than average preference for solitude.

Hiders need very gentle coaching and encouragement to get to a point where they will allow others to get to know them. Most Hiders do not like to speak in front of the group. You can help them by sharing in pairs. Mix the pairs up so that the Hiders will get to know everyone. Remind the group often that your group needs everyone's contribution to grow.

- Skeptics

Skeptics have the greatest potential to ruin a group. Criticism spreads like rust and it can paralyze an inexperienced Group Leader. Skeptics bark is usually worse than their bite. Criticizing becomes such a habit to Skeptics that they will even bring question and doubt to things they enjoy. Remember the complaints of Skeptics usually come from their own perceptions and hurts rather than what they are criticizing.

Never allow a Skeptic to derail an activity, and never take the complaints personal. Humor is a great tool for reaching Skeptics because it diffuses the power of the complaint. With consistent care and nudging, a Skeptic can become an exciting and motivated group participant. If the Skeptic is over the top, have a honest conversation with them, away from the group, explaining how negative comments interrupts your efforts for the group.

- **TMLers**

TMLers have a hard time knowing how much information is **Too Much Information** (TMI). They tend to bring details to their stories that may leave some group members feeling embarrassed, uncomfortable or unsure of how to respond.

It is important as a Group Leader to help TMLers find the proper context for the things they would like to share. A good response to TMI is to say something like, "That must have been very painful for you. That's the kind of thing we should discuss one-one. Meet with me after the group so I can pray for you" TMLers are known for being needy and work best with very direct yet gentle Group Promoters.

- **Fixers**

Fixers have a hard time seeing others pain or confusion. They tend to try to fix problems with quick answers and solutions. Although, their intentions are good they come off as being non-empathetic.

If a Fixer gives a pat answer that may seem judgmental or insensitive, don't panic. Quickly move in with a response that shows empathy. You could say something like, "I'm sorry you are going through that, keep sharing and struggling forward and we will all do our best to support you along the way". If the Fixer fails to catch your hints and redirection, speak with them after the meeting explaining that you appreciate their wisdom, and then remind them that you want everyone to have the freedom to talk, discover and even struggle through things. We are all here to support one another.

## **Lack of Commitment is another area of struggle for Group Leaders**

- **Recognize lack of commitment is a spiritual issue**

Pray for your group members to grow in their spiritual walk and in their overall commitment to the Lord. If most of the group seems to struggle in this area, address the group as a whole.

Ask everyone to silently complete the question, "It isn't that we are not committed to our Southside Group, it's just that I am more committed to \_\_\_\_\_."

The answer must describe where they spend most of their spare time. End this discussion by simply asking everyone for their commitment. Be specific and explain the benefits of this commitment. Most importantly, be committed yourself, model commitment to the group. If it is a certain individual, address them privately. Saying something like, "Would you be open to an observation I have about your level of commitment to this group?" As a Group Leader you must balance friendship and accountability.

- Principles that encourage commitment

Encourage friendships. Be a friend to the uncommitted person. Look for opportunities to mentor. Involve others in your small group in this effort.

Create a climate of belonging. Follow-up outside the meeting with phone calls, cards, lunch, etc. Encourage other members of your group to do the same.

Plan for involvement and participation. Look for ways to involve those unengaged in the meeting activities. Begin slowly so you do not scare them away. Give the fence sitters assignments that must be accomplished and brought back to the group at the next meeting.

Strive to provide Bible learning that is related to life not just information. Be sensitive to opportunities that lead to a real encounter with God.



## Icebreaker Questions

- If you had to choose one meal to eat every day for the rest of your life, what would you choose and why?
- What are you thankful for today?
- Who would play you in a movie about your life?
- Describe your perfect day off.
- If you could witness any moment in history, what would it be?
- What is something you do not like, but wish you loved?
- What gives you joy?
- If you had an unlimited budget, what would be the guilty-pleasure item you indulge in?
- If you could compete in the Olympics, what sport would you choose?
- What is something funny or embarrassing that you believed as a kid?
- What was your first job?
- What are some of your pet peeves?
- What has been a recent high point and low point in your life?
- If you were famous, what would you be famous for?
- If all your clothes had to be one color forever, what color would you pick?

## Icebreaker Questions

- If you knew when your last meal would be, what would you eat, where would you eat it, and who would be there?
- Describe your past week in weather terms. (Was it stormy, cloudy, foggy, mostly sunny or what?)
- What is a challenge you are facing right now?
- What is one thing you are looking forward to?
- What is one thing you like to do when you have free time?
- What is one thing you are really good at?
- One fact about me that might surprise you is...
- Would you rather have a fast forward, pause, or rewind button on your life?
- At what time of day or night are you most productive?
- How many hours of sleep do you get on a typical night?
- Where would you most like to go on vacation?
- During the summer, what temperature (Fahrenheit) do you keep your home when it's occupied?
- What's the best Thanksgiving-meal side?
- What was your first job? What did you like/dislike about it?



## Bible Apps

There are many Bible App's that can help your Southside Group stay connected and learn more. Some are listed below.

- [Voxer](#)

What is Voxer?

Voxer is a free app that combines the best of voice, text, photo and video messages for a powerful and personal messaging tool. Easily and instantly communicate with friends, family or teams at work – live or later. Voxer works over any 3G, 4G, or WIFI network in the world.

Voxer is the only service that delivers voice live - so it can be listened to immediately and simultaneously records the message - so it can be listened to later. We have 120 global patents for this unique technology that is used in over 200 countries.

- [Blue Letter Bible](#)

What is Blue Letter Bible?

The Blue Letter Bible is a website and app that provides tools for in-depth Bible study. It is a non-denominational ministry that characterizes itself as being "grounded in the historical, conservative Christian faith." The Blue Letter Bible (BLB) was housed under Koinonia House (the ministry of Chuck and Nancy Missler) and founded by Sowing Circle. It launched in 1996 with the King James Version of the biblical text and several commentaries. The site now includes twelve English Bible versions, one Spanish version, one Hebrew version, three Greek versions, and the Latin Vulgate version.

Study tools include Hebrew and Greek Lexicons, including Strong's; multiple commentaries available in text, audio, and video formats; Bible dictionaries; maps; devotionals; and other tools.



- [YouVersion](#)

What is YouVersion or Bible.com

YouVersion is the Christian ministry behind the popular The Bible App, also called Bible.com. Their website says, "We believe every person should have the opportunity to explore the Bible, no matter where they live or what language they prefer. That's why we design and build experiences that make it easy for people to integrate the Bible into their everyday lives." YouVersion was founded by Life.Church, a mega church within the Evangelical Covenant Church denomination, in 2008.

The Bible App, an outreach of YouVersion, gives users free access to 1,884 Bible versions in 1,291 languages. Features include the ability to compare passages in different versions, highlight portions of the text, and create private notes. Users are also able to create images with the passages or to share the passages from the app to other platforms. Search features based on topic, feeling, or common biblical accounts are easily accessed. The app provides users with tracking information regarding their usage in hopes of helping them build a habit of daily Bible reading. The Bible App is also designed with features for sharing and interacting with friends. The app is free and includes no advertising.

The Bible App provides various "plans," much like devotionals, from a variety of different writers and Christian ministries. Related videos, including those from The Bible Project, are suggested for verses as well. These can be extremely beneficial additions for those studying the Bible. But users should be cautioned that not every writing from every author featured on The Bible App is biblically sound. As with any teaching, the different plans and videos should be examined against what the Bible actually says.





## Child Care Ideas

Childcare can potentially act as a BIG challenge for groups.

Here are some ideas & options

- **Hire a babysitter and split the cost among the group.**  
*You could use babysitters that are known by members or even hire member's teenage children to help out with watching younger kids.*
- **Rotate the childcare among the group members.**  
*Some groups prefer to simply take turns watching the kids. This can be done at a separate house each week, or in a different room at the same home that group is being held in.  
One problem to be prepared for with this method is when people skip their turn. If the groups system for childcare is to take turns, everyone has to participate FULLY.  
If full participation is not required, the childcare responsibilities inevitably fall on the shoulders of one or two people.*
- **Trade childcare with another Southside Group meeting on a different night.**  
*Find another group and watch their kids in exchange for the same service. You can even pair up family to family which works out so that no one family from the other group has to watch 28 kids once a week.*
- **Grandparents!**
- **Everyone takes care of their own childcare needs.**



# Southside Group Service Project Guide

## Explore

This is where you look into what your service options are. Southside Church provides service options on our website in the SERVE tab. Feel free to explore other areas of service. This could include a personal need of a person, family, or business that you may be aware of. You can also spread the word that you are looking for a service project to increase your selection. The most important aspect of finding your project is finding where there are needs. By exploring issues facing your community and what causes those issues you ensure that you maximize the impact of your project.

## Outline

For a successful project, break down each piece of what needs to be accomplished. Set goals, brainstorm community partners, create a timeline, determine action steps and material, and then get everything put into your [Service Project Outline](#).

## Serve

Put your plan into place and begin your Service Project!

## Evaluate

Throughout the project, track your progress and gather results. Encourage your group and

## Celebrate

Celebrate meeting the goals with your group and recognize partners. Fill out the [Service Celebration Form](#), so that your project can be recorded and or showcased.

## Service Project Tips

### Things to Consider Before Serving

- ◇ Let the community know about your project
- ◇ Make sure everyone knows what is expected of them
- ◇ Think ahead! What type of problems could occur and how will you handle them
- ◇ Coordinate where you will meet to check in
- ◇ Where Southside Church SERVE t-shirts
- ◇ Give your contact info to everyone and keep your phone on you
- ◇ Bring Service Project Outline with you to project

## Things to Consider While Serving

- ◇ Arrive early to ensure everything runs smoothly
- ◇ Meet with your team to review the schedule
- ◇ Begin with a big welcoming kickoff that includes prayer
- ◇ Monitor the schedule so you can stay on track
- ◇ Manage your group throughout the project
- ◇ Evaluate goals, progress, success ,as well as, challenges, mistakes, and downfalls into the 'Evaluate' section of your [Service Project Outline](#)
- ◇ Interact with the people you are serving, get to know them
- ◇ Encourage and thank your group, community partners, and service site, often
- ◇ Take pictures, videos, and document progress
- ◇ Join back together for the close out of the day, end the day in prayer and praise
- ◇ Have FUN!!

## Things to Consider After Serving

- ◇ Recognize all involved and celebrate the success (write thank you notes, plan a dinner or party for your group, etc..)
- ◇ Add any final evaluations of goals, progress, success ,as well as, challenges, mistakes, and downfalls into the 'Evaluate' section of your [Service Project Outline](#)
- ◇ Fill out the [Service Celebrating Form](#) (use the 'Evaluate" section of your outline for guidance)



# Service Project Outline

Our Service Project is (Example: Chesterfield Food Bank)

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Our Southside Group will (Example: Food Distribution)

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

Number of service hours \_\_\_\_\_

Where \_\_\_\_\_

When \_\_\_\_\_

Major Tasks to Complete

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Community Partners (If any)

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Material & Supplies needed

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