

Books for Small Group Leaders

A healthy group begins with a leader who is being formed by Jesus. These books are selected to deepen your walk with Christ, strengthen your leadership, ground you in Scripture, and help you care for people well. You do not need to read them all. Start where you most need to grow.

From LifePoint leaders

[Parable Church: How the Teachings of Jesus Shape the Culture of Our Faith](#) | Mike Burnette with John Driver

Pastor Mike explores the parables of the two sons, the sower, and the talents to challenge how we live together as Jesus' church. This is a strong choice for every LifePoint leader who wants to understand the kind of kingdom culture we are called to build.

[Developed: A 7-Focus Book for Worship Leaders Who Want to Lead Beyond the Stage](#) | Elmer Cañas Jr.

Pastor Elmer calls leaders to grow in character and skill, with attention to who they are becoming beyond their public role. It is written specifically for worship leaders, so I'd present it as a specialized leadership recommendation whose central challenge also speaks to small group leaders: gifting alone cannot sustain ministry.

Spiritual formation: Stay close to Jesus

1. **[The Good and Beautiful God](#) | James Bryan Smith**
Examine what you believe about God in light of the God Jesus reveals. **Start here** if your view of God needs renewal. (ivpress.com)
2. **[A Praying Life](#) | Paul E. Miller**
Honest, practical help for bringing your distracted, dependent self to God in prayer. ([A Praying Life](#))
3. **[Gentle and Lowly](#) | Dane Ortlund**
Spend time with the heart of Christ for sinners and sufferers. Leaders need to receive His compassion as well as extend it. (www.crossway.org)
4. **[The Good and Beautiful Life](#) | James Bryan Smith**
Let Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount challenge the habits and assumptions that shape your daily life. (www.ivpress.com)
5. **[Created to Draw Near](#) | Edward T. Welch**
A deeper look at the privilege of drawing near to God. Especially timely when ministry activity has begun to crowd out communion with Him. (www.crossway.org)

Leadership: Lead from character and conviction

6. [The Emotionally Healthy Leader](#) | Peter Scazzero
Examine the connection between your inner life with Christ and the way you handle pressure, decisions, power, and relationships. (zondervanacademic.com)
7. [Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership](#) | Ruth Haley Barton
A searching book for leaders who want to pay attention to God while carrying responsibility for others. **Best for a slow, reflective read.** ([Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership](#))
8. [The Making of a Leader](#) | J. Robert Clinton
See leadership development as a long process in which God forms your character, calling, and capacity. (www.navpress.com)
9. [Problems of Christian Leadership](#) | John Stott
Brief, grounded reflections on discouragement, self-discipline, relationships, and service from a leader whose life matched his teaching. ([Problems of Christian Leadership](#))

Discipleship and mission: Help others follow Jesus

10. [The Disciple Maker's Handbook](#) | Bobby Harrington and Josh Patrick
Move beyond gathering people to intentionally helping them grow and make disciples. (zondervanacademic.com)
11. [The Gospel Comes with a House Key](#) | Rosaria Butterfield
A strong challenge to practice costly, ordinary hospitality with neighbors and others God places in your life. (www.crossway.org)
12. [The Good and Beautiful Community](#) | James Bryan Smith
Consider what it means to be formed together as apprentices of Jesus. A fitting choice for leaders who want deeper community than a weekly meeting alone can provide. (www.ivpress.com)

Care: Walk wisely with people

13. [Side by Side](#) | Edward T. Welch
Learn to offer wise, compassionate help while remaining humble enough to receive help yourself. **Start here** for everyday care. (www.crossway.org)
14. [Caring for One Another](#) | Edward T. Welch
Short and practical guidance for knowing people more deeply and bearing burdens together. (www.crossway.org)
15. [Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy](#) | Mark Vroegop
Learn the biblical practice of lament so you can make room for grief without rushing people past it. (www.crossway.org)
16. [Suffering](#) | Paul David Tripp
Gospel-centered help for facing pain and walking faithfully with people whose struggles do not resolve quickly. (www.crossway.org)

