



SMALL GROUP ROLES

God desires that we dwell *together in community* – to share life and discover hope as members of one Body, growing in our connection with God and with one another.

Because we each come to the group with varying levels of illness, it's important to share responsibilities. Clear group roles offer a framework for healthy small group dynamics.

As you read through the group roles, prayerfully consider how God is calling you to serve. Remember that sometimes He calls us to serve in uncomfortable or challenging ways.

Depending on the size of your small group, participants may need to assume multiple roles.

A FEW BASICS

- Determine group size. A maximum of six participants will insure that each voice is heard.
- Determine whether you will meet in person or virtually.
- Determine the day and time of meetings. We recommend meeting every other week for up to 90 minutes.

GROUP ROLES

Group Facilitator – Responsible for facilitating chapters 1 and 2 of the study. This will give everyone with the opportunity to become familiar with the study and group dynamics. The Facilitator is responsible for general group rules and for helping to keep the group on track.

Chapter Facilitator – Each participant facilitates one or more chapters, based on group size.

Visit chronic-joy.org for more resources.



Organizer – Gathers participants' contact information, (phone number, email, mailing address, birthday, social media contact information, etc.) providing it to each group member. The Organizer also notes which chapter(s) each participant facilitate and when each group member will share their story (usually one per week).

Prayer Coordinator– Prayer is essential to a healthy group. Prayer requests can be emailed to the Prayer Coordinator, who will forward them to each group member. The Prayer Coordinator should reach out to group members who have not submitted requests. Sometimes a little TLC can encourage a more hesitant member to share.

Encourager – The Encourager will send regular messages to each member, including things like:

- a quote or thought from the upcoming chapter
- an image from the Chronic Joy website
- a prompt or question from the study
- an encouraging Scripture passage

Goodwill Ambassador – The Ambassador sends cards, texts, or emails to group participants to:

- celebrate birthdays or accomplishment
- celebrate a brave moment or courageous decision
- compassionately respond to a health crisis or loss
- be an encouragement

While these roles may seem daunting, especially with chronic illness, these groups move at the *pace of grace*.

Decide what works best for your group. The roles are guides to get you started on building a group that thrives, and they help minimize leader burnout.

In God's economy, we are all leaders – some of us are dynamic leaders like King David, some are reluctant like Moses, most fall somewhere in between.

Most important, groups should be built on the unshakable foundation of God. As we listen to and lean into Him, our groups will engage, grow, and ultimately thrive.

Thrive in a life with chronic illness.

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