



REPLACE YOURSELF | APPRENTICESHIP

Why replace myself?

It improves your group experience

Share the responsibility of leadership.

As an apprentice begins to share your leadership responsibilities, you will have more time and energy to invest in the lives of your group members. That investment is what group leadership is all about.

Find deeper community.

Sometimes God calls you to mentor or minister to the members of your group. But you can't create community if you aren't experiencing it yourself. During these seasons, an apprentice can be your community as you help others navigate life.

Fill the gaps.

You and your group will benefit from the input of more than one leader. And you'll find that your apprentice connects relationally with some of the personalities in your group more easily than you do.

What do I do?

Just three things...

Step 1: Invite.

Make a personal invitation to someone in your group. Don't ask for volunteers. Look for someone you're already connecting with and who is willing to share your responsibilities and get involved in leadership. Remember: You don't need to find someone who can lead a group right now. Your apprentice will have plenty of time to learn and grow.

Step 2: Connect.

Relationship is the priority. You and your apprentice need to encourage each other's spiritual growth through transparency and accountability. It will benefit you both.

Step 3: Share.

At first, you'll share tasks with your apprentice, such as planning group meetings and sending emails. Your goal is to eventually share responsibilities, such as facilitating discussions, leading prayer time, and investing relationally in group members.

Group Member Assessment:

Here are a few questions for you and your spouse to discuss to see if there is a couple who is ready to lead and plant a new group.

1. Is there a couple or couples who:
 - A. Consistently show up every meeting?
 - B. Contribute and add value to the discussion?
2. Is there a couple that is building relationships with other couples in the group?
3. Is the couple Biblically and doctrinally sound?
 - A. Do they agree with West Ridge's beliefs and values?
4. Has anyone expressed interest in being a group leader?