



# WW25

## SMALL GROUP LEADER INFORMATION



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Dates:

January 17-19, 2025

### Location:

Valley Ranch Baptist Church | 1501 E Beltline Road, Coppell, Texas 75019

### Leader Meeting:

Friday, January 17 | 5:00pm | Seminar Room

We will go over details for the weekend, have dinner together, and pray over our weekend. Please make plans to attend this meeting!

### Important Contact Information:

Caleb Wade | Student Pastor | [cwade@vrbc.net](mailto:cwade@vrbc.net) | (817) 304-4523

Kassidy Turner | Student Ministry Associate | [kturner@vrbc.net](mailto:kturner@vrbc.net) | (972) 989-5921

## WHAT IS WINTER WEEKEND?

Winter Weekend is a discipleship retreat for 6th-12th grade students. Students are hosted in homes all across Coppell for a weekend focused on worship, Bible Study, and building community. You will play an important role in the weekend. You will be responsible for preparing and teaching the small group lessons for a group of teenagers for the weekend. You will stay in the home with them and guide them throughout the weekend.

## WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

Per VRBC's Good Shepherd Policy, it is needed that each small group leader goes through each step in our Good Shepherd process. Each of these items (except the two noted below) may be found in the confirmation email you receive after completing your registration. After you have finished your registration, we will be following up with you if any of these items are still missing.

- **Small Group Leader Registration**
- **2025 VRSM Adult Participation Waiver**
- **Signed Good Shepherd Policy**
- **Ministry Safe Certificate** (if not completed in the last two years) — The invitation to the Ministry Safe awareness training will be sent to you through email after you complete your registration. If you have recently gone through this training for VRBC or another organization, a copy of the certificate can be emailed to [kturner@vrbc.net](mailto:kturner@vrbc.net).
- **Approved Background Check** (if not completed in the last two years) — The invitation to begin a background check will be sent to you through email after you complete your registration. If we have a valid background check on file for you, you will not need to do another one.

# WHAT TO BRING

## YOU WILL BE STAYING IN THE HOST HOME WITH THE STUDENTS ALL WEEKEND.

- A sense of excitement, expectancy, and flexibility. This is going to be a great weekend!
- Prepared lessons to teach during small groups.
- Your Bible and a pen.
- Wear casual, but appropriate clothes. You will be given a Winter Weekend shirt to wear for Sunday. Gloves, a set of clothes to work in, and some closed toed shoes. We will be doing some mild construction for our Mission Project.
- Basic toiletries - towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, brush, deodorant, etc. Please do not forget a towel – Host Families are not responsible for providing towels!
- Sleeping bag and a pillow. We have asked each Host Home to provide a bed for each leader but, just in case, bring something to sleep in.

# DNOW LEADER EXPECTATIONS

We need a number of college students/young adults to help lead our small groups during Winter Weekend. We need committed Christians who are willing to prepare and invest themselves in a group of students (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) over the course of a weekend. The bulk of our expectation lies in your connection and investment in students for the weekend. You will also be expected to help make sure students are where they are supposed to be when they are supposed to be there, that they are respectful of the Host Home, and they are making good choices during the weekend.

A Winter Weekend Leader must:

### 1. BE INVESTED

A small group leader must (1) be actively pursuing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and (2) want to invest into the lives of junior high and high school students.

### 2. BE A LEADER

We'll be looking to you to step up, take charge and ensure that the students are able to have a fun and productive weekend. If students aren't doing what they need to be doing, don't be afraid to speak up and take charge!

### 3. FACILITATE SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

One of your main responsibilities will be leading the small group times in your groups. We provide material to facilitate and direct your small group times, so please take the time to pray, study, and prepare for each of the three small group lessons. You don't have to stick to the material word-for-word, but we do expect you to cover what each lesson is teaching those students. We believe that these small groups will provide a major avenue for spiritual growth for students, so use this time wisely....and have some fun doing it!

### 4. ENGAGE WITH THE STUDENTS

Building relationships with your assigned group of students is critical. This is challenging to accomplish in a weekend, and that is why we ask you to stay with your assigned group of students as much as possible. I know you might have friends in other groups, but we need you to be responsible for your own group. This means spending time with your specific students and knowing where they are. You have a great opportunity to impact these students' lives during this short period of time. Please use it effectively.

### 5. SET THE EXAMPLE

Look around...guess who's looking at you? Your group of students! We expect you to set an encouraging example throughout the weekend. This means we expect you to be willing to participate in the activities, engage in worship, and follow directions. Also, we need your help encouraging positive and flexible attitudes for whatever is happening next.



When the lesson guides for all three small group sessions are completed, you can find them in the Winter Weekend Google Drive Folder. You can find the link to this on the Winter Weekend Small Group Leader webpage ([vrbc.net/ww25smallgroupleader](http://vrbc.net/ww25smallgroupleader)). You will also find Lesson Prep Videos to help as you prepare to teach each lesson.

Reminder: These lessons are not meant to be scripts, but guides. Please do not just recite them word for word. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you as you prepare and lead.

## **THEME: SURRENDER, A PROTOTYPE SERIES**

### **THEME VERSE**

*"Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it." Matthew 10:39*

### **DESCRIPTION**

The reality of our world is that surrender can be seen as a dangerous practice. But when it comes to surrendering our lives to God, we gain far more than we ever had to lose in the first place: a life-giving relationship with Him, eternity with Him forever, and wisdom and comfort from God when we face life's challenges. **In a world where surrendering seems like a weakness, we want students to see that surrendering to God is one of the most important things they can ever do.** God's desire for us to surrender to Him is not that we would be left with nothing, but rather that whatever we thought we had before could be replaced with the one thing we truly need: **God Himself.**

As VRBC is spending this year studying what it looks like to be a prototype of God's eternal church, our desire for our students at Winter Weekend is to understand that an element of becoming a prototype of Christ is to learn what it means to fully surrender to Him. Throughout Winter Weekend, we'll be talking about not only the initial surrender of giving our lives to Christ but the daily occurrence of surrendering all to Him.

# SMALL GROUP SESSIONS

## **SESSION 1:** Surrendering The Desire to Be Your Own God

**Scripture:** Mark 10:17-22; Genesis 3:1-13; 2 Kings 17:29; Job 40:1-5; Matthew 22:37-40

**What We Want Students to Learn:** That all of us have tried to replace God's Lordship in our life with our own sinful desires.

**Session Snapshot:** Every decision we make will, in turn, make a statement about what holds the highest authority in our lives. Students will be encouraged to look at their own lives and examine their allegiances. Most often, the highest authority in our lives is our flesh and its desires. As people born into sin, this is a default setting for us. But life changes when we totally surrender to God and allow Him to be the highest authority in our life.

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## **SESSION 2:** Surrendering The Idea Of Saving Yourself

**Scripture:** Ephesians 2:4-9; Romans 3:23-26; Romans 5:10; John 14:6

**What We Want Students to Learn:** That we are incapable of being righteous in our own power. Jesus is the only way that we can have a right relationship with God.

**Session Snapshot:** Students are so often encouraged by the world to take the matter of their life solely into their own hands. The idea of working for what you want is so ingrained into the culture that we expect hard work to always produce rewards. This is not a good mindset to use when it comes to salvation, though. To truly experience the salvation offered in Jesus Christ, we must surrender the efforts and ideas that we can save ourselves from the penalty of sin.

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## **SESSION 3:** Surrendering Your Whole Self

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Hebrews 12:11-15; Luke 9:23; Galatians 5:22-23

**What We Want Students to Learn:** That giving our lives to God means that we are no longer our own. Everything that we do with our minds and bodies should now strive to be aligned with Scripture.

**Session Snapshot:** Following Christ is a daily occurrence and one that requires both discipline and sacrifice. Part of true spiritual change in our lives is surrendering to the mental and physical changes that God calls us to in His Word. There are things that we must stop doing, as well as things we must start doing. This session is an honest look at what it means to surrender our whole self- mind, body, and soul – to the Lord.

**Thank all of you for the commitment and investment you are making by being a part of this weekend. You are so vitally important in the lives of these students! We are praying for each of you as you prepare your hearts and minds for Winter Weekend.**

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## SCHEDULE



### FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH

|          |                                     |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 5:00 PM  | Small Group Leader Meeting + Dinner |
| 6:30 PM  | Check-in – <i>Church Lobby</i>      |
| 7:00 PM  | Worship   Session 1                 |
| 8:30 PM  | Late Night Party                    |
| 10:00 PM | Head to Host Homes                  |
| 10:30 PM | Small Group 1 in Homes              |
| 12:00 AM | Lights Out                          |

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 8:00 AM  | Breakfast / Time Alone with God<br>Small Group   Session 2  |
| 10:15 AM | Arrive at VRBC  |
| 10:30 AM | Worship   Session 2 at VRBC                                 |
| 11:45 PM | Lunch   |
| 12:45 PM | Mission Projects  |
| 3:00 PM  | Free Time   |
| 5:45 PM  | Head to VRBC  |
| 6:00 PM  | Dinner  |
| 7:00 PM  | Worship   Session 3   |
| 8:15 PM  | Small Group   Session 3 at VRBC                             |
| 9:30 PM  | Late Night Worship  |
| 10:30 PM | Everyone but Seniors Head Home<br>Senior Communion + Prayer |
| 11:00 PM | Seniors Head Home   |
| 12:00 AM | Lights Out  |

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 8:30 AM  | Breakfast at VRBC              |
| 9:00 AM  | Group Pictures                 |
| 9:15 AM  | Head to Worship Center         |
| 9:30 AM  | Worship   Worship Center       |
| 10:45 AM | Winter Weekend Wrap-Up         |
| 12:00 PM | Students and Leaders Dismissed |