Soul Revolution Small Group

Soul Revolution is about learning to do life with God moment by moment in community with others. It’s about developing a habit of continuous conversation with God, willing to do his will, becoming all God intended you to be.

Benefits of Soul Revolution Groups

- Connecting the unconnected in our city and attenders of Gateway into life-changing relationships with one another and Jesus.
- Helping people start exploring a moment-by-moment experience with God by doing the 60/60 experiment with others.

What is your Role as a “Facilitator”?

1. You don’t have to be a ‘know-it-all’ when it comes to the Bible, but you should be a growing Christ-follower and completely supportive of Gateway’s mission and values. You will set the example as an eager learner on the Way of Christ.

2. You should also be a people person who enjoys the simple acts of hospitality that make people feel comfortable in a new setting. A warm and pleasant atmosphere and simple refreshments are keys to getting people to relax and make new friends.

3. You will also need to be an initiator. Don’t expect that all you will need to do is unlock the front door and wait for people to arrive! You will need to be “lovingly persistent” as you follow-up with people who express interest in the group. You can help them overcome their natural fears so they can discover life-giving community.
Keys that will make your Soul Revolution Group Successful

1. Structured Material:
Facilitators will use the Soul Revolution materials Gateway has written. Even though the Soul Revolution book has questions in the back of each chapter they are often times more for individuals, not groups. We have discovered that this Small Group curriculum builds a very strong foundation for groups, which the book alone might not be able to accomplish. For new groups, it creates a common small group experience — with relationship building, structured study, and application to life. The Soul Revolution material does emphasize the relationship-building component — which is so essential for a new group. It is easy to lead and has very helpful leader’s notes.

2. Shared Responsibility:
We have discovered that nothing builds a sense of belonging and group ownership faster than when the Facilitator shares responsibilities with other members of the group. You should encourage others members to sign up to take some role during the group. They could bring the food, keep the prayer list for the group, open their home, plan a social event, or even facilitate a lesson! This will help you begin to discover the unique talents and gifts of each member. This has the added benefit of reducing the load on you as the Facilitator!

3. Thinking and Praying about the Big Picture:
One leadership role that we ask you to play is to begin now to think about where your group is going. Remember, your group will be finished 8 weeks after your first meeting! While most of your group members will be focused on their own experience each week, we are asking you to pay attention to the big picture and watch carefully to see what God is doing.

- Who is opening up and who is not?
- Who is bonding with other members?
- Who is showing “leadership” potential?
- AND …
- What is God saying to you about the future of the individuals in the group?

4. Positive Outcomes of a Soul Revolution Group:
- People experience listening to God and acting on His promptings in a moment-by-moment way by doing the 60/60 experiment.
- Several new Running Partner Relationships are started.
- You decide to continue the group after Soul Revolution with you as the leader.
- You identify a potential/emerging leader in the group that could become a group leader in the future.
Preparing for your First Group Meeting:

Plan on Preparing about an Hour for Each Small Group Meeting.
All of the notes for leading the small group sessions are printed in the Soul Revolution Small Group materials (www.GatewayChurch.com/SoulRevolution). Familiarize yourself with these notes so you can facilitate the group naturally, using your own voice and emphasis as a facilitator. Feel free to add your own stories or experiences related to the topic you are leading. Allow your own personality and experience to come out as you use the materials.

- Print the Small Group material from www.GatewayChurch.com/SoulRevolution.
- The Bold Text in the Small Group material is for the leader to prepare and communicate.
- Don’t ask all of the questions printed in the material!!! Pick the best questions you want to ask your group. You can choose one or two questions from the list for each section.
- Only Print One Copy of the Small Group Material Notes for the nights you meet as a Small Group. You do not need to pass these notes out to everyone.
- Do, however, Print Copies of the Running Partner Guides before the Running Partner weeks to pass out to everyone. This will be the guide the Running Partners use when they meet separately from the group. You could also email them the .pdf from www.GatewayChurch.com/SoulRevolution - Group Materials.

Group Schedule:

- **Week 0** – Small Group Together
- **Week 1** – Small Group Together – even though it is a Running Partner Week (Note: It is best to meet all together as a large group for this week at the same time and place as the first week. Keep this consistent. Break up into Running Partner conversations around the room, apt., or house for the RP time.)
- **Week 2** – Small Group Together
- **Week 3** – Running Partners Together (No large group meeting together)
- **Week 4** – Small Group Together
- **Week 5** – Running Partners Together (No large group meeting together)
- **Week 6** – Small Group Together
- **Week 7** – Running Partners Together (No large group meeting together)
- **Week 8** – Small Group Together

Pray for the Individuals on your Group Roster.
Ask God to prepare them for coming to the group and that they would be open to radically responding to God in this experiment.

Running Partners During the Group:

We are encouraging every Soul Revolution group to form sub-groups called Running Partners. The suggested rhythm is that you will meet all together as a small group one week and then as Running Partners the next week.

What are Running Partners?
In the same way athletes train to reach physical goals, we need spiritual training partners to provide encouragement, pacing and motivation for spiritual goals like the 60-60 experiment. Running Partners encourage one another to become all God intends each person to be.
What does a Running Partner group look like?
Running Partners are most often a group of two, three or four people. Interestingly, we’ve found that the most successful partners have been groups of three. This size is still small enough to make scheduling easy, but it is large enough to give good feedback and support. Running Partners are typically of the same gender, though sometimes 1 or 2 couples may form a group.

What if my Running Partners don’t seem to be working well together?
If you have some questions, talk it over with your Running Partners and/or with the small group leader. “How does this seem to be working so far?” is a great open question to ask each other after the first meeting or two. Sometimes it makes sense to shift groups around after a couple of weeks, or sometimes it just takes some patience to work through some differences in personality. It will also help to regularly review the “Rules of Running.” Remember that this is a group that you are “trying out” until the end of the Soul Revolution series.

Logistics & Frequently Asked Questions

- Plan to meet every week for nine weeks BUT, you will meet as a Small Group all together only six times. The other three weeks you will meet as Running Partners. The first 3-weeks you will meet as a Small Group, then as Running Partners the next week, followed by a Small Group meeting the next. You will continue in this rhythm, until the end of the series.

- We recommend a group length of 1.5 to 2 hours. Consider giving the group 15 minutes before and after the group for general social time.

- Plan to start your group the week after September 9th (or following week). September 9th is the first Sunday morning message for the Soul Revolution Series. Plan to give the group members 3-5 days email notice about the group details prior to the first meeting. Also a reminder email the day of the group is helpful for new groups.


- Who will be in your group? In addition to any friends you personally invite we’ll advertise your group on our website and in the Sunday program on Aug. 25, Sept. 2, and Sept. 9th.

- Make it your goal to contact people assigned to your group promptly! (no more than 5 days later) These people have signed up for a group and are looking for what comes next, so please be considerate and contact them quickly. We have written an email for you to use, which you can personalize, that is informative and friendly to welcome group members.

  o Sample introductory e-mail to group participants on the next page...
- **Sample introductory e-mail**

  **Subject Line:** "Gateway – Welcome to our Soul Revolution Group"

  Hi {insert person's name},

  I'm {Insert your name} and I'm the facilitator for a new Soul Revolution Small Group which will be starting soon through Gateway Church. I'm excited that you signed up for a group and look forward to meeting you!

  Our first meeting will be held at {insert place name, such as "my house"} on {day/date/time}. {location} is located at {address} - {directions or landmarks}.

  Gateway has written material for our group as we go through the Soul Revolution series on Sunday mornings. There is no cost for the material. The material will be available for you at our first meeting. Bring your copy of the book Soul Revolution, and if you have a Bible, you can bring that as well. We’ll start the night with a snack and just casually getting to know each other, then start the intro part of the Soul Revolution materials. I’m looking forward to meeting everyone!

  Please respond to me via email or call me to let me know that you'll be able to make it. If you won’t be able to attend or have any questions, please also let me know.

  Thanks,

  {your full name}

  {your full contact info - phone & email}

- More people for your group: **If some people can’t come**, we may be able to fill-in with others wanting to join a Soul Revolution group. We are trying to connect as many people as possible into community.

- Childcare: Some Facilitators choose to **arrange childcare** for their group members. Ask everyone to share the cost with you that use this service. Also, be open to feedback from parents whose kids might have a negative experience with your babysitter.

  - Note: arranging childcare is not a requirement for a Facilitator.

- Meeting Location: Most groups will meet in the **home of the Facilitator**. In our experience some people that sign up to attend your group might be willing to use their home or apartment. We do, however, recommend meeting in the same location for all 5 weeks of your Small Group meetings. This creates consistency and a growing level of comfort when people know the expectations of their environments.

- Supporting You: If you have questions about facilitating the group, the group materials, group dynamics, etc. – **contact a Gateway Church staff member who supports you** or Kirby_Holmes@gatewaychurch.com.