



SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Renovated is a women's conference focused on strengthening wives and marriages through biblical truth. It includes a 4-part teaching, small groups, and worship. The keynote messages focus on gaining a fresh perspective on our role as wives, what it means to be the "helpmate," what biblical submission is and isn't, along with an honest look at sex in marriage.

Your leadership at *Renovated* is an important part of the overall *Renovated* experience. What you do is as much a part of the conference as the keynote messages and the worship. Without your leadership, the simulcast/conference becomes less of an experience and not much more than exposure to some information that women may or may not put into practice once the conference and simulcast end.

Your leadership at *Renovated* is both general and specific:

GENERAL – IN THE ROOM

Every woman should feel "seen." Your leadership is necessary for creating an atmosphere that is accepting, encourages openness and community, and breaks through the barriers that can cause others to feel like strangers in a group or room due to unfamiliarity, racial or ethnic differences, temperament, age, denomination, etc.

YOU are key to helping every woman feel welcomed.

Suggestion: Assign women to greet at the door and assign women to walk around the room, engaging with women conversationally, introducing them to other women, whether or not they're seated at your table. Use nametags every day of the conference! Do this in your host home for the simulcast, also.

SPECIFIC – AT THE TABLE

Every woman should feel "heard." You will hear responses and reactions to the content that no one else at the conference might hear. The women sitting at your table or in your home are your ministry *at* the conference. However, your ministry to them may extend beyond the conference/simulcast to include starting a prayer group, text group, online group or meeting in-person to debrief the conference content and encourage application, etc.

Suggestion: Collect the contact information for the women in your group (see resource on p. 5).

THE PURPOSE OF THE SMALL GROUPS

The small group time is crucial to helping women:

Digest some of the content from the general sessions through discussion questions.

Connect with other women through what they have in common – common struggles, stories, etc.

Identify ways they can begin implementing what they hear when they get home.

Cultivate transparency and authenticity with each other (no walls, no pretense, no guards up).

Pray for one another as the Body of Christ in support of one another.

SMALL LEADER EXPECTATIONS

Your group may be a mix of women who are married, widowed, divorced, engaged or not-yet-married-but-marriage-minded. You do not have to be married to be a table leader or host home.

Here are some things that are expected of you as a table leader:

You are cultivating your devotional life. It's important that you spend time with Jesus, praying and abiding with Christ through His Word.

Be honest about your own marriage and struggles. If you are single, be honest about your struggles, too. You don't have to be perfect to lead, just authentic and in the fight for your own marriage, your own purity, and your own need for growth.

Help keep the conversation on topic. You want to help the women know that they're in a safe space with each other and encourage each woman to participate, using the small group question(s) as your framework for what to talk about.

Manage the time in your group. There is a schedule for the conference and simulcast. You will need to remind the women in your group of how much time you have together before you get started with the small group content.

SMALL GROUP CONTENT

The small group content is strategic: to encourage the women at your table/in the host home to talk *to* each other, talk *with* each other, and talk to God *together*.

FIRST Small Group

BEFORE starting this time, introduce yourself, encourage them to sit with the same group on Day 2 of the conference to help build community with each other over the weekend and let them know your group/table is a SAFE place.

There will always be women who are reluctant to participate in the group time. You want to speak to that BEFORE it happens, so women don't feel "called out."

What you can share: Let them know that every woman fears being judged, misunderstood, saying the wrong thing or sounding like she's complaining. Tell them that you're willing to trust them with what you share and you encourage them to trust each other. Together you will be truth-tellers and grace-givers and when we do those two things, we grow.

The first small group will be an icebreaker and will be your shortest time together. It's simply meant to help relax women and breakdown the stranger barriers. It can be funny and serious, all at the same time. The main point is to help get them talking.

Each woman will be asked to share her name, where she's from and why she chose to come to *Renovated*. Use the following list of choices as your starting point:

I like doing regular marriage maintenance – going to marriage studies and conferences

I was invited by a friend

My marriage needs a tune up or some repair

My marriage is nearing a breakdown

I don't know why I'm here

FOMO (fear of missing out)

Other (please state what the "other" reason is)

YOU GO FIRST! As the leader, be honest about your own reason for attending and others will be honest about their reason. As you have time, you can tease out some of their answers. For example:

She answers: I like going to marriage related things. *Ask:* What kinds of conferences and studies have you done that you'd recommend to others?

She answers: I was invited by a friend. *Ask:* How long have you known each other?

She answers: My marriage needs a tune up. *Ask:* In what area would you say you need the tune up the most? *This is where I feel I could use a tune up in mine...*

Thank them for sharing and close in a word of prayer that's inclusive of, and sensitive to, the answers given by the women in your group, asking God to unite the group and be a support for each other over the weekend, and maybe even beyond.

Encourage any women who are crying – give a hug, sit by her, offer her a tissue, pray comfort and hope over her, etc. Whatever you do – don't ignore her tears!

SECOND Small Group

This is designed to be a time of reflection with future application in mind. By this small group, they have heard three (3) messages and need a moment to process some of it, identifying what stood out to them and what their application is so far.

Ask the women to look over Session 1 and share which perspective resonated with them the most.

Ask women to look over Sessions 2 and 3 and share where they feel they need to make an application as a wife – helpmate or submission, and in what way specifically.

The Leader closes the group in prayer. If your group ends before the designated time, release them for an early break.

THIRD Small Group

This group time is dedicated to praying together. The leader will let the group know that there are four (4) targeted 15-minute segments, and that each woman will pray out loud in the direction of each prayer segment, including the leader.

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| 15 minutes | Pray for yourself |
| 15 minutes | Pray for your husband |
| 15 minutes | Pray for God's Kingdom to manifest in and through your marriage (e.g., my marriage needs joy, forgiveness, to be made new, oneness, kindness, holiness, etc.) |
| 15 minutes | Pray for someone else's marriage (good marriages and/or hurting marriages) |

If there is time left within a segment before moving on to the next, then as a group, pray for each other – agree with each other in prayer over the things women have already shared in that prayer time. And then believe together that God has heard your prayers. ❤️



SMALL GROUP CONTACT INFO

| Name | Email Address | Phone |
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Please PRINT CLEARLY.
Thank you!

Your information will not be sold or used for business purposes. The sole purpose is to promote community with those women who'd like to stay in contact with each other after the *Renovated* simulcast/conference.