

# JW Small Group Leaders

Updated for 2025

Small groups are essential for equipping, empowering, and unleashing women. It is in small groups that we can connect, take down our walls, and experience a grace filled community.



Attendees will choose a group to join, and will stay with that small group for the event so they can build trust.

## Small Group Leader Role

As a Small Group Leader, you will greet, lead discussions, monitor the conversations, be a mentor, and lead in prayer.

- Before the conference, spend time in prayer and fasting the three days before the conference. Our goal is that each participant will encounter God, and we are the warriors to fight for victories, deliverance, healing, and everything that God wants to do through the small group times.
- Greet: Greet each person warmly, either shake their hand or at least give them eye contact and welcome them personally.
- Lead Discussions: Each session has planned group discussion and goals to meet. As a leader, you are responsible to stay as close to the plan as possible, so the goals can be achieved.
- Monitor: Your goal is to guide your group (we know women can talk and go on rabbit trails!) in these discussions with discernment, grace, and wisdom. Some women tend to dominate conversation, others want to be a therapist, and others will be practically invisible. Sometimes there will be a woman who doesn't really want to sit with the group-ask God to show you how to connect and draw her in. Sometimes you have to take your authority and redirect conversation or ask one person to pause so others can share. This isn't easy but it is important if you have a talker and several quiet ones. A monitor also watches for the "therapists" and reminds the group to not have any cross-talk.
- Mentor: There may be opportunities to share a few words of insight and wisdom. Make these brief (the goal is group participation and discussion), but speak God's truth. You can offer to meet one-on-one with one of your ladies during a break time to share more, or to give your contact info for future mentoring.
- Lead in prayer- you may invite a group member to pray, or lead out yourself. Each group time should be opened and sealed in prayer.
- Host: Make sure the ladies in your group know where the bathrooms are and where to get a drink. If someone is crying, keep tissues close to hand to them if they want them, but don't shove them at them. Sometimes we have to get all snooty and messy as we heal. You can also pass around chocolates or a treat if you want!

### Small Group Schedule:

- Friday 9:10 pm -10 pm: **Goal is to get to know one another** and share what each was hoping to gain from the event. **Plan some light-hearted get-to-know-you questions** to help each person feel more comfortable and connected. This is a great time to laugh together - maybe talk about your favorite foods or vacations. Focus on building relationships.
- Saturday 10:30 am to 12:00 noon (or as your group needs): **Goal is to give each lady a chance to TELL HER STORY.** Divide the minutes by how many ladies you have and let everyone know at the beginning how much time they have. You can even use a timer if you feel you need that. Follow the guidelines on monitoring the conversations, and after each lady finishes, others take a moment to affirm her.
- Sunday 10:30 am to 11:45 am: **Goal is to pray for each woman individually** as a small group. I like to start with sitting in a circle and asking God to show us what to ask for prayer for - for ourselves. I talk about how this isn't about their kids or co-worker, this is their personal time to pray for freedom, healing, and growth. After about 2 minutes of silence (to give time for prayer and reflection) then you can stand up and ask who wants to step into the circle and go first. Once someone moves into the center, ask what she wants prayer for. It is important for her to own what choice she is making. The Group Leader and Assistant will take turns in praying and being attentive to the Holy Spirit leading. This is a good time for prophetic words to be shared. Always ask before you touch someone- some are not comfortable having anyone touch them while praying. Believe that each woman can pray and encourage them to let go of inhibition and pray out loud. Sometimes you have to break into smaller groups in order to pray for everyone in your group in the time allowed.

Thank you for being willing to serve as a Small Group Leader!

Warmly,

Grace Smith