

### What is a PowerLife and Catalyst Small Group Leader?

**A positive example.** PowerLife and Catalyst Leaders are the adult small group leaders for PowerLife (6-8<sup>th</sup> grade) and Catalyst (9-12<sup>th</sup> grade) students. A leader models an authentic personal relationship with Jesus Christ that is contagious for students and encourages their discipleship.

**A relational person.** Each leader is responsible for facilitating discussion in the small group while creating a trusting environment where students can pursue what it means to follow Christ. In both PowerLife and Catalyst it is the goal for leaders to serve with a Co-Leader as growth is expected in the small group.

**A collaborative and teachable person.** Small Group Leaders willingly come under the leadership of Hosanna! Student Ministry staff using the materials provided to facilitate discussions and making programming dates a priority. Coaches are provided to train, care for, and provide leadership support and have a passion for seeing leaders succeed.

**A committed person.** Being a PowerLife/Catalyst leader requires dedication and a substantial time commitment. The success of PowerLife and Catalyst depends on leaders committed to being on time, fully present, and dependable.

### Small Group Leader Expectations:

- **Inward Growth** – We minister to others out of our own growth in Christ. Leaders are committed to a lifestyle of becoming more and more like Jesus through personal prayer time, Bible study, and attendance at worship.
- **Outward Actions** – Others will know us by our actions and lifestyle. Leaders are committed to representing and living out Christ's transformative love to the world by striving to avoid offensive jokes, sexual immorality, drugs, offensive language, inappropriate media, pornography, talking negatively of others, and any compromising situations.
- **Christ-like Community** – Every person is made in the image of God. Leaders are committed to treating others with dignity, love and respect. Leaders help to create a safe small group environment where students can share and discuss their lives with discretion, sensitivity and confidentiality.
- **Encouraging Growth** – Small groups present the opportunity to encourage students to grow in their faith journey. Leaders are responsible for the functional and spiritual leadership of the small group including identifying a substitute in the instance of an absence, caring for students through contact if they miss weekly programming, and praying for and with students on a consistent basis.
- **Active Participation** – Leaders are committed to participating in all events required for the position (e.g. Wednesday nights, Fall Leadership Training, monthly Coach Connect Meetings, Service Projects, Retreat)
- **Partnering with Coach** – Leaders are committed to maximizing the effectiveness of small groups and providing necessary discipline and leadership to students.
- **Partnering with Staff** – Leaders are committed to helping maintain the integrity of Hosanna! Student Ministries vision by using provided small group discussion guides, upholding schedule for programming, (including service projects and retreats) and reading emails from Student Ministries Staff,
- **Vision** – Leaders are committed to embracing and embodying Hosanna's mission of "Advancing God's kingdom, everywhere, one person at a time," and the I-35 vision for Youth Ministries of "Embracing and Living the Faith." Leaders also commit to upholding the Hosanna! Safe Child Policy, Standards for Adults Working with Youth, Leadership Covenant, and the Hosanna Mission and What We Teach (viewable online).



## Primary Time Commitment

### Length of Commitment- 1 year minimum (3 years ideal for PowerLife)

Ideally, PowerLife leaders will serve with the same small group through their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. (i.e. 6<sup>th</sup> grade: 3 years, 7<sup>th</sup> grade: 2 years, 8<sup>th</sup> grade: 1 year). Catalyst Leaders are committed to 1 year of service.

### Wednesday nights, September 18- May 14

**PowerLife: 6-7:15 p.m., Catalyst: 7:45-9:15 p.m.** (See calendar for specific dates)

(Note: 8<sup>th</sup> grade moves to 7:45-9:15 p.m. March 12-May 14 for Confirmation Prep)

Be present to sit with your small group during large group (worship/teaching) and meet for 30-40 minutes of small group time.

### Leadership Training

**September 11, 6-8 p.m.**

Receive vital visioning and meet in coaching groups for connection and training.

### UNITED

**Wednesdays, September 18, 2013 and January 8, 7-8:30 p.m.** (Note: 6<sup>th</sup> grade Leaders will meet their groups for the first time 6-6:45 p.m. on Sept. 18) Combined PowerLife/Catalyst event with guest speakers and clear Gospel message.

### Coach Connect Meetings—2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month (approx.)

**7:15-7:45 p.m., October 9, November 13, December 4, February 5, March 12, April 9, May 7**

Connect with your Coach and other Leaders for leadership principles, prayer, encouragement, and to address any issues you are facing.

### Retreat

**7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Boys Retreat:** November 1-3, 2013, **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Girls Retreat:** January 31-February 2, 2014

**Catalyst Retreat:** November 22-24, 2014

All leaders (except 6<sup>th</sup> grade) are expected to attend the **Retreat** with their small group at Lake Geneva Christian Center in Alexandria, MN. The retreat is an awesome opportunity for leaders to connect with their students and God in a new setting, away from their daily routine.

### Service Projects

**December 11 (Food Drive), December 18, April 16**

Serving is an important value we want to instill in our students. Leaders are responsible for coordinating two off-site service projects with your group (suggestions provided) and participating in the Food Drive (coordinated by Student Ministries). Leaders will need to coordinate transporting students.

## FAQs

- 1. Can I be the leader of a group with my own child?** Experience has shown us that a student's faith development is positively affected when they have several adults, including parents, helping them to grow in their faith. For that reason, please consider leading a small group other than the one your son/daughter is assigned. That way, students can benefit from yours and other adult's perspectives and the small groups can serve as conversation starters for home discussions.
- 2. Do I need to have a Co-Leader?** Yes. Each Small Group Leader will work with a Co-Leader, ideally someone they have recruited themselves. As our ministry continues to grow, Co-Leaders empower us to make room for as many students as possible to know Christ more and have meaningful small group discussions.
- 3. How many students will be in my group?** Groups will start with 6-8 students assigned. However, when small groups reach 10 students; a **subgroup** will be formed for small group discussion. Each leader will take half the students for discussion time. When groups have less than 10 in attendance (including guests), the small group can meet as one group.
- 4. What if I want to serve 6<sup>th</sup> grade but can't commit to 3 years?** We understand that three years is a lot to ask. However, leaders make the most impact when they are committed to students for the long-term. We ask leaders to keep this "ideal" situation in mind as they commit to serving.
- 5. What if I have to miss a week?** We rely on our leaders to keep their commitment to meeting with their small group weekly. If for some reason you are unable to be here, we ask that you contact (by phone) the parents of your students and see anyone is willing to substitute (Background check necessary!). Additionally, we ask that you contact your Coach and Student Ministries staff to make us aware of your absence and to give us the name of the substitute who will be filling in.

