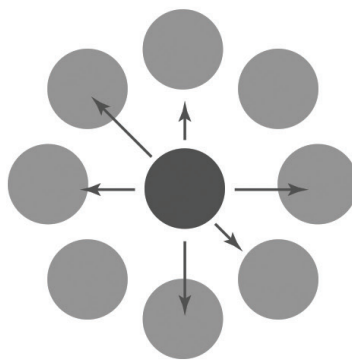


# HUDDLE PARTICIPANT GUIDE



## HUDDLE LEADER GUIDE

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For information, write to 3 Dimension Ministries, 14 Lincoln St, Greenville, SC 29601, USA or [3dmovements.com](http://3dmovements.com)

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# HUDDLE CONTACT INFO

Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## HUDDLE MEMBERS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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# WHAT IS A HUDDLE?

A Huddle is a discipleship vehicle for current or future leaders that provides support, challenge, training, and accountability and is led by a discipling leader. Typically, Huddles have 4-8 people in them and the participants are invited into a discipling relationship by the Huddle leader.

The purpose of Huddle is to provide a regular and rhythmic time for this group of current or future leaders to be invested in, disciplined and trained so they can then go and do the same for others. People in a Huddle are expected, at some point in the journey, to lead a group of their own and build a discipling culture within it. That might mean starting a Huddle of their own, or it could mean leading a small group or another discipleship vehicle.

## THERE ARE A FEW THINGS THAT UNIQUELY CHARACTERIZE HUDDLE:

1. **Two questions.** At the conclusion of each Huddle, each participant will be able to answer these two questions: What is God saying to me and what am I going to do about it? These are the two fundamental questions of Christian spirituality as Jesus

lays out in the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Man at the end of the Sermon on the Mount.

2. **Accountability.** At the beginning of the next Huddle, each participant will be asked how their plan went. Rather than a view of accountability that looks like spiritual policing, Huddle is a place of spiritual partnership.
3. **Language.** A place where the group will learn a common discipling language that will not only shape their life, but that they can also pass on to others.
4. **Leader.** A Huddle is not a place where the leader is acting like a facilitator, but is taking the group on a specific journey together. The leader is offering their life as something to be examined for how Jesus is actively working in it. They are certainly not a perfect example, but they can serve as a living one.
5. **Reproduction.** An expectation that at some point, each participant will begin leading a discipling vehicle of their own.

This is just a snapshot of Huddle. We could spend much time and ink explaining Huddle, but as with many things, it's simply better to experience it. If you do have more questions, we encourage you to bring your questions to your Huddle leader.

### **Coaching Tip:**

Things you'll need for Huddle each week:

- 1) A copy of the book *Building a Discipling Culture*
- 2) This *Huddle Participant Guide*



# IT'S ORGANIZED AND ORGANIC

Huddle is the ongoing, intentional, structured investment into the lives of future or current leaders where they are learning to listen and respond to the voice of God. A leader invests his or her life into the lives of others, encouraging them to step more and more into the Kingdom and live accountable lives.

However, the call to discipleship is an invitation into the life of the Huddle leader, not just Huddle experience. It is both an organized and organic expression of relationship. The vehicle of HUDDLE is on the organized spectrum; however, it is crucial we realize the organic component best described as ACCESS to the life of the Huddle leader. In other words, you'll be spending more time with them and receive additional investment from them outside of only a 90-minute window of time when Huddle happens.



This is an extraordinary opportunity, as the Huddle leader is not simply committing to one space and place of time each week. Rather, they are offering an invitation into their life, alongside Huddle, so you will truly receive the investment needed for a discipling relationship.

# GENERAL GUIDELINES

**Make it a priority.** You need to invest the time to receive the most out of it. You'll need to be at every Huddle save out-of-the-blue situations.

**Choose to be vulnerable.** This is absolutely crucial — you need to choose to let your barriers down and be open. You may be tempted to be guarded for a number of months, but this completely misses the point of Huddle and is not fair to the other members of the group who are allowing themselves to be genuinely accountable.

**Treat others with respect.** This helps achieve and maintain the openness just spoken of. Not just the leader, but every individual member helps create a safe and secure environment for that group.

**Have fun.** Laugh a lot! Sometimes we forget that Jesus seemed to have a particularly good sense of humor. The general rule is that your times together will be relaxed but focused. Yes, of course there will be serious and profound moments, but you also want to come from Huddle feeling refreshed and invigorated. Laughing with friends in a safe environment is a great way to achieve that.

**Give as well as receive.** Huddle is not a consumer product. You need to come prepared to give of yourself both as you share your story, and as you help challenge and affirm others.

**Commitment to the leader.** For whatever reason, God has put this person in your life and in a Huddle they are leading. Commit to trusting this and where God is taking you. There is no question that your leader has flaws that you will quickly see, but God's grace can be more evident in those.

**Build relationships.** Some of the other people in your Huddle you may know well, others less so or not at all. While the commitment is to the leader and the gatherings they call, nevertheless it can be a much fuller experience if you spend time with other people in the Huddle.

# WHAT ARE LIFE SHAPES?

Most Christians we've met have the ability to invest in the people God has put around them but usually don't for three basic reasons:

1. They aren't sure how to disciple people well. And so rather than screw it up, they decide not to.
2. They don't know where to begin. "What is most important for people to know? How can I make sure it's not just information in their head but they live it out as well?"
3. They don't have a discipling language that the people they are investing in will be able to easily remember.

What LifeShapes does is take many of the essential teachings and principles of the Bible and Jesus and gives people an easy way to remember each key concept: A shape. The point isn't just that you would learn it so that it shapes your life (though that's incredibly important); but it's just as important that you are able to remember it so you can share it with other people as you are investing in them. The shapes are simply a memory tool.

The shapes aren't the point. The point is scripture and making sure that the reality of scripture is sinking down into every part and practice of our being.