



**theagape.church**  
415 CENTRAL AVENUE LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39440

# **Small Groups Leader's Training**

**"He cared for them with a true heart and led them  
with skillful hands." Psalm 78:72 (NLT)**

## THE MISSION OF AGAPE CHURCH

We believe in the incredible potential of every human being, and we are helping people to discover and develop that potential in all its fullness. Each person is very precious and has a vital part to play in the Kingdom of God. We strongly believe that we are called to inspire people to work together, reach out and make a difference here in our own local community, and to extend from there out to the four corners of the earth. We strive to live relevant, God-honoring lives based on faith in Jesus Christ, and through them, we are bringing faith, hope and love to a hurting world.

## THE FOUR PILLARS OF AGAPE CHURCH

### **KNOW GOD** - Salvation & Worship Services

Our passion is to help people develop their personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus and be transformed by His presence.

### **FIND FREEDOM** - Small Groups

We are committed to teaching the Word of God and its application to real everyday life.

### **DISCOVER PURPOSE** - Discover Agape

We believe that believers should be people who allow the Holy Spirit to shape their values and behaviors every day (Ephesians 4:30-32). We believe that the Holy Spirit gives people special abilities for ministry, commonly referred to as “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-25) and “gifts of the Spirit” (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11). The fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit will help believers mature in Christian faith and character while, at the same time, accomplishing the plan of God on earth in daily life.

### **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** - SERVE Team & Prayer

We strive to be a source of strength, support, and encouragement to those we encounter. We are committed to reaching out and helping one another to love life and to live it to the fullest the way God intended.

## SECTION 1: THE HEART OF SMALL GROUPS

### SMALL GROUPS MISSION

To promote **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS** through small groups which empower people for ministry.

### Small Groups Provide Three Things

1. A place to **CONNECT**.

*...yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.  
(1 Corinthians 9:22 TLB)*

It is easy to feel alone in a crowd. Small Groups are an open door into the life of our church family. When you are in a small group, you experience the love and strength of biblical community.

2. A place to **BE PROTECTED**.

*We know what real love is because Christ gave up His life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters. (1 John 3:16 NLT)*

Imagine someone you can call when you're discouraged, someone to pray with when you are doubting and someone who can teach you more about what God is like. Imagine a loving community of people who notice when you are away, gently sharpen you when you need it and who help you share your faith with others. Small Groups are a place where you are protected and supported.

3. A place to **GROW**.

*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17)*

Small Groups are a place you can be equipped to become more like Jesus and to live a faith-filled life. We believe that every person is created with God-given potential to make a difference in the world. Small Groups are a place where there are like-minded people who believe in you. This is how leaders are developed. We want to see you grow, flourish and become all that God has called you to be!

## Why Small Groups?

1. Life change happens in the context of **RELATIONSHIPS**.

We are designed for relationships. Relationships define us, grow us, challenge us, strengthen us, and bless us.

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)*

*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)*

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work. If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)*

- Our culture **DEVALUES** personal relationships, but the scripture requires relationships.

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25)*

*And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us (Ephesians 5:2)*

At Agape Church, we believe our church must grow **LARGER** and **SMALLER** at the same time.

Small Groups are the vehicle through which ministry at Agape Church takes place. They provide a setting to build dynamic relationships and facilitate spiritual growth.

2. Therefore, Agape Church seeks to become a church **OF** small groups rather than a church **WITH** small groups.

Our model for small group ministry is the early church. The book of Acts records the tremendous growth of the first church in Jerusalem. Small Group meetings in homes were the foundation of the early church.

*(They met) day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house.*  
(Acts 5:42)

Small Groups keep us connected. Small Groups are the most effective way of closing the back door of our church.

## Flow of Leadership

Our flow of leadership is based on the “Jethro Principle” found in Exodus 18. This flow of relationships enables people in ministry.

Every small group leader has leadership that is praying for them and is available for coaching sessions as needed.

Our Small Group coaching structure is maintained through relationships.

**Small Groups Director:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Every Small Group Leader should *immediately* identify an assistant leader(s) that can help with scheduling snacks or emailing prayer lists, etc., and can eventually lead a small group of their own in future seasons.

## OUR SMALL GROUPS MODEL

Our small group system allows leaders to turn their existing relationships, gifts, interests, passions, and hobbies into disciple-making small groups.

God has blessed you with a certain set of passions, gifts, and abilities. Now, it's your turn to use what God has given you to see people move one step closer to Christ.

The concept incorporates any life-giving activity that is of interest or enjoyment to the group leader and, ideally, others as well.

Our Small Group Model:

- Small group leaders are an **EXTENSION** of the pastoral staff and elders of Agape Church.
- Small groups are important for handling the **PASTORAL CARE** functions of the church. They provide the personal touch that people need, especially in a crisis.

*Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)*

## Six Features of Agape Church Small Groups

1. Small Group Leaders use their **GIFTS** with their **PASSIONS**.
2. Built on **FELT** needs & **COMMON** interests.
3. Groups meet **WEEKLY** on a **SEASONAL** calendar.
4. Leaders invest in the **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** of their group members.
5. Leaders **COMMUNICATE** regularly with their ministry leader(s).

Our groups are as varied as we are. Group leaders use their gifts and passions to create a group that allows others to join with them in serving God. We have groups for all ages, interests, days, times, and locations. We foster an environment where our groups "do life" together with others.

As a leader be innovative and creative! God has designed each person uniquely, and He can use that uniqueness as a catalyst for relationship building.

## SECTION 2: YOUR SMALL GROUP

### GETTING STARTED

#### Recruiting - The act of Building Your Small Group

- Start with people that are already in your sphere of influence. (co-workers, friends, neighbors)
- Find people around you that are new to the church, new believers, or have shown interest in getting involved.
- Look for people that you think you can help draw out their potential.
- Pray for God to send people to you that you haven't already discovered.

#### Location

We encourage all Small Groups to meet outside of the church building.

If you cannot meet in your own home, look for a host home (possibly the home of someone attending your group). Other possibilities for meeting locations include:

- Subdivision clubhouse
- Outdoors in a park
- Restaurant (Chick-fil-A, McAlister's, Central Avenue Cafe)
- Coffee Shop (Lee's Coffee & Tea, Jitters)

#### How to Lead My Small Group Meeting

##### Things to Do:

1. **FELLOWSHIP**
2. **TOPIC OR ACTIVITY**
3. **SPIRITUAL COMPONENT**
4. **MINISTRY**

##### Things to Avoid:

1. **BUSINESS**
2. **OFFERINGS**
3. **UNAPPROVED MATERIAL**
4. **CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS**

### Preparing for a Small Group Meeting

- Invite people to your group.
- Email or call the day before your group as a friendly reminder.
- Create nametags for those that have called or emailed.
- Have food and snacks available.
- Create an inviting environment.

### Group Dynamics

- Give time for **DISCUSSION**. Avoid doing all the talking. A good guideline is the “70-30” rule. Approximately 70% of the speaking should be from members and 30% from the leader.
- Keep the discussion **POSITIVE**. Carefully lead the conversation back to the topic when tangents occur. Where sensitive issues or complex questions arise in your group, follow up one-on-one after the meeting.
- Steer the discussion in a direction where **EVERYONE** can participate. Remember that new believers may not grasp phrases that are common to us. (i.e. spiritual warfare)
- Be prepared to **CHANGE THE DIRECTION** of the meeting if needed. The primary goal is to create an environment where people feel loved and accepted.
- Men should **MINISTER** to men and women to women. Couples may minister to a single.

### THE UNSEEN ELEMENT

*For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.*  
(Matthew 18:20)

Think of a recent worship service or small group meeting that you really enjoyed. What made it encouraging or helpful, so that you were looking forward to the following week? Aim to lead a small group meeting you want to go to!

- A **POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE** that is full of faith, hope and love inspires people to grow, facilitates healthy relationship-building and importantly allows the Holy Spirit to work. Small Groups are an expression of church in your home. There should be a positive atmosphere for your small group – it reflects the heart and vision of Agape Church!
- As a leader it is your role to set the **tone** and **CULTURE** of your group. Atmosphere does not just happen! How can you create an effective atmosphere that builds others up? Consider the location of your group, your preparation for the meeting, and the example you can set as a leader.
- A **LIFE GIVING** environment will encourage others. Be a source of encouragement. You do not need to know all the answers or be the source of all wisdom. The Holy Spirit is there to help and guide you.

## Childcare

As a small group leader, you may become aware of individuals who would like to attend a small group, but do not have the resources to pay for a babysitter each week. At Agape Church, we believe that members should not miss the opportunity to participate in a small group due to a financial burden. For that reason, we offer reimbursement for childcare that occurs during a small group.

You may obtain a *Small Group Childcare Reimbursement Request* form from the Small Groups Director. The Small Groups Childcare Form is attached at the end of this training manual.

## Reimbursement Request Tips For Group Members

- Complete one childcare reimbursement request form for each small group meeting attended.
- Forms must be submitted within fourteen (14) days after attending the small group meeting to qualify for reimbursement.
- Requests can be mailed to the address provided on the form.
- Reimbursements are made at a set hourly rate.
- Refer to the chart provided on the form to plan a budget to hire a babysitter.

## SECTION 3: YOU THE LEADER

### Understanding Your Role

Your capacity to develop HEALTHY **RELATIONSHIPS** will enhance your ability to minister in **TIMES OF NEED**.

We believe you can effectively lead a small group if you can:

- E **ENCOURAGE PEOPLE**
- S **SHARE SCRIPTURE**
- P **PRAY**
- N **NEXT STEPS**

*“Be sure you know the condition of your flocks; give careful attention to your herds.” (Proverbs 27:23)*

Your primary role as a small group leader is to assess the spiritual condition of your group members and help them **MOVE ONE STEP** further in their walk with Christ (see page 17 for more information).

Some practical steps to accomplish this are:

- If a group member is not in a relationship with Christ, bring him/her to a **CHURCH SERVICE**.
- Encourage group members to be **WATER BAPTIZED**.
- Challenge group members to complete the **DISCOVER AGAPE**.
- Connect group members to the **SERVE TEAM**.
- Encourage group members in daily **BIBLE READING AND PRAYER**.

### Tips to Being a Successful Small Group Leader

1. **PRAY DAILY** for group members. Tell them you are praying for them and encourage them to pray for each other.
2. **DEVELOP** an assistant. This may be the most fulfilling accomplishment of leadership: helping someone find their purpose in God by learning to help others.
3. **SPEND TIME** individually with group members between meetings.
4. **FOSTER COMMUNICATIONS** within the group. Have your group members exchange contact information and encourage them to fellowship outside the group.
5. **ENGAGE** in a serve project or outreach during the season.
6. **RALLY** the group around a member going through crisis. Use wisdom and be sensitive!

### Your Co-Leader

A co-leader for your small group is optional. A co-leader's role is the same as the leader's role in caring and praying for small group members. The co-leader is paired with the same coach as the leader.

### A Family Within a Family

*"God sets the lonely in families"* (Psalm 68:6)

God knows we need a loving group of people around us. It is through Small Groups that we can see the church family functioning in relationships of genuine love and practical care. In Small Groups we celebrate personal victories, we support each other through difficult times, we believe in each other's potential and we **SHOW LOYALTY BY KEEPING CONFIDENCE**.

We care for our small group members in practical ways:

1. **ACCOUNTABILITY** – Ask tough questions; help them keep commitments.
2. **AFFIRMATION** – Offer words of encouragement and support; affirm their strengths.
3. **ACCEPTANCE** – Provide unconditional love and grace to them even when they fail.
4. **ADVICE** – Speak words of wise counsel and give them options for their decisions.
5. **ADMONITION** – Offer words of caution and warning so they can avoid pitfalls.

## Leader Responsibilities

With the privilege of leadership comes responsibility. In his pastoral letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul lists some standards for leadership.

*If anyone wants to provide leadership in the church, good! But there are preconditions: A leader must be well-thought-of, committed to his wife, cool and collected, accessible, and hospitable. He must know what he's talking about, not be overfond of wine, not pushy but gentle, not argumentative, not money-hungry. He must handle his own affairs well, attentive to his own children and having their respect. .... The same goes for those who want to be servants in the church: serious, not deceitful, not too free with the bottle, not in it for what they can get out of it. They must be reverent before the mystery of the faith, not using their position to try to run things. .... Those who do this servant work will come to be highly respected, a real credit to the faith. (1 Timothy 3:1-13, MSG)*

Leaders are asked to abide by an honor code (see page 15 for more information).

### A Small Group Leader is:

1. Passionate about God and people.
2. A person of character and integrity.
3. Committed to personal spiritual growth.
4. Supportive of the vision and mission of the church. This includes attending a Sunday service and supporting the church financially through tithes and offerings.

**SECTION 4: PRAYER**

...(we) will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word. (Acts 6:4)

At Agape, we believe heart-felt prayer is key to leading people to Christ and essential to what we do as a church.

Prayer is the **FOUNDATION**. As leaders, it is vital that you set the tone for prayer. When you look to the example of Jesus, you help lay the foundation.

*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have - Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11, NLT)*

Intentional prayer **COVERS, PROTECTS** and **ENLIGHTENS**. It is important to spiritually prepare the environment before group members arrive.

- Humble yourself.
- Invite the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- Ask God to work in the hearts of those He is calling to be there and to prepare them to receive what He wants to impart.
- Pray that members will have personal revelation and understanding of God's Word.

Prayer is a **CONNECTING POINT** for ministry. Your group needs to offer an opportunity for the ministry of the Holy Spirit to take place in people's lives.

Your small group ministry starts with you and some practical steps are:

- Begin praying now about the type of group the Lord would have you lead.
- Pray about who to invite to your small group.
- Commit to praying daily for your small group members and coach.
- Encourage members in daily prayer.
- Daily pray for His presence, His power, His peace, and His provision.
- Remember, we are praying for you!

**SECTION 5: LAUNCHING YOUR GROUP****Are You Ready?****The Process:**

1. Become a member of Agape Church.
2. Complete Discover Agape.
3. Attend Small Group Leadership Training.
4. Agree to and abide by the Agape Church Leadership Honor Code. (see page 15 for more information)

**Next Steps:**

1. Decide on a topic or an activity you love, a place to meet, and a time that works for you.
2. Register your group with the Small Group Director.
3. Recruit people to come to your group.
4. Set up a table on Launch Sunday and be present at your table.
5. Pray and know that God is going to do great things in your group.

Questions?

Contact us at [jjhill@theagapechurch.tv](mailto:jjhill@theagapechurch.tv)

**SECTION 6: RESOURCES****SMALL GROUP LEADER JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Supported by:** Small Group Director/Pastor

**Prerequisites:**

1. Become a member of Agape Church and complete Discover Agape
2. Attend Small Group Leadership Training
3. Complete and meet the requirements of the Small Group Leader Application.

**Responsibilities:**

1. Pray for and coordinate weekly small group meetings to include the following: Fellowship, Topic or Activity, Spiritual Component, and Ministry.
2. Pray daily for everyone in your small group and for your leadership.
3. Be an example to your small group members, developing them into future leaders.
4. Provide a supportive atmosphere in which small group members are able to discover and develop their spiritual gifts.
5. Maintain unity by representing the philosophy of ministry and theology of Agape Church.
6. Unless specified, welcome new people into the group anytime during the season.
7. Encourage members to invite people who are outside the church.

## HONOR CODE

As an essential part of the Agape Church Leadership family, you have a responsibility to develop and exhibit mature Christian behavior. This should be the basic premise of your desire to participate in a servant-leader position here at Agape Church.

While serving the Body of Christ as a servant-leader at Agape Church, you pledge to present a good appearance at all times. In both attire and behavior, you should strive to demonstrate Biblical standards in all situations.

As Christians, the way we present ourselves to others is of vital importance to the way others perceive Christ. Our conduct should never be an embarrassment to Christ, but should exemplify the best qualities of a mature believer and servant-leader.

Exemplifying the highest moral commitment, leaders at Agape Church are to maintain a disciplined life of Bible reading, prayer, and fasting. You must also refrain from such things as:

- profanity
- dishonest gain
- gambling
- indulging in much wine or other alcoholic beverages
- illegal drugs
- pornography
- sexual immorality
- all behaviors which might cause Christ to grieve and others to stumble

By providing an example in speech and action, we encourage others to grow in Christ and become servants-leaders themselves. This is a way of life measured by the heart and commitment of each leader in the Agape Church family. We should regard it as an essential part of our development, not as an imposition or restriction.

## LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

*“The same goes for those who want to be servants in the church: serious, not deceitful, not too free with the bottle, not in it for what they can get out of it. They must be reverent before the mystery of the faith, not using their position to try to run things. Let them prove themselves first. If they show they can do it, take them on. No exceptions are to be made for women—same qualifications: serious, dependable, not sharp-tongued, not overfond of wine. Servants in the church are to be committed to their spouses, attentive to their own children, and diligent in looking after their own affairs. Those who do this servant work will come to be highly respected, a real credit to this Jesus-faith.” (1 Timothy 3:8-13 MSG)*

### Qualifications:

- Sincere, worthy of respect, and of a good reputation.
- Tithe regularly to Agape Church.
- Have a genuine desire to serve and minister to other people.
- Able to lead, motivate, and teach other people.
- Able to create positive group dynamics, and deal with conflict resolution within the group.

**MOVE ONE STEP RESOURCE**

*“Be sure you know the condition of your flocks; give careful attention to your herds.”*  
(Proverbs 27:23)

**Questions to ask:**

Tell me about your relationship with Jesus. Does your relationship with Jesus take priority in your life?

- If no, share with them your personal testimony and offer to pray with them that Jesus will be Lord of their life.
- Invite them to a Sunday worship service.

Are you regularly attending weekly worship services?

- If no, offer to meet them on Sunday before service and sit with them.

Have you been water baptized since you have become a believer?

- If no, encourage them to be baptized at the Water Baptism service. Invite the rest of your small group to come for support.

Have you completed Discover Agape?

- If no, encourage them to attend Discover Agape. Offer to meet your small group members there to attend Discover Agape together.

Have you identified your spiritual gifts? Are you using them to serve on the Serve Team?

- If no, encourage them to attend Discover Agape on the third Sunday of the month.

Describe your daily Bible reading. Do you use a Bible Reading Plan?

- If no, direct them to You Version on their smartphone to choose a reading plan or devotional. Also, you can suggest Purpose Driven Life as a great 40 day devotional to help someone develop the habit of daily reading.

Tell me about your prayer life. Do you have a time, place, and plan to pray?

- Recommend a message series on prayer.\*

Do you have relationships that offer accountability?

- If no, encourage them to find an accountability partner.

Are you tithing regularly?

- If no, recommend past Sunday messages on finances.\*

\*Available at [theagapechurch.tv](http://theagapechurch.tv)

## ICEBREAKERS

Remember, the best icebreaker is transparency.

Questions to open discussions:

- What is the one thing about you that is unique?
- Who is someone who has influenced your growth as a Christian disciple? What did they do?
- How did you end up at this small group meeting?
- What is your favorite childhood memory?
- Where did you live when you were growing up?
- What is your earliest recollection of God?
- What did you want to be when you grew up?
- Where is the farthest place you have ever traveled?
- When is a time during the week that you can relax?
- What do you most like about your life's calling?
- What is one thing that gives you satisfaction?
- What is your greatest joy in your faith?
- If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be, and why?
- Where would you live if you could move anywhere in the world, and why?
- How would you like to see your closest relationship develop in the next year(s)?
- What area of your faith would you like to work on in the next few years?
- If you could have three wishes come true, what would they be?
- What is your greatest anticipation of the future?

## SOME FUN IDEAS

It is important to involve your group in other activities outside the settings of a small group meeting. One of the purposes of Small Groups is to develop relationships and a sense of community. Therefore, in order to get beyond certain perceived or actual barriers between relationships, you need to periodically do fun, social activities. Below is a list of ideas to use when planning an activity:

- Summer barbecue
- Pool party
- Games: Outburst, Encore, Pictionary, Charades, etc.
- Horseback riding
- Hay rides (include hot apple cider, and s'mores)
- Bowling
- Christmas party
- Christmas caroling
- Progressive dinners
- Volleyball, horseshoes, badminton, roller skating, skiing
- Miniature golf
- Scavenger hunts
- Birthday parties
- Concerts, symphony, ballet, opera
- New Year's Eve party
- Picnics in the park
- Camping
- White water rafting



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## Small Group Childcare Reimbursement Guidelines

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1. Small Group Childcare Reimbursement Request forms must be submitted within fourteen (14) days after attending the small group meeting to qualify for reimbursement.
2. Reimbursements are made at a set hourly rate for the cost of an individual childcare provider in your home while you attend a small group away from your home. See Reimbursement Chart on reverse side of this form.
3. Complete one (1) Small Group Childcare Reimbursement Request Form for each small group meeting. Please use an original form – copies are not accepted.
4. Mail your Small Group Childcare Reimbursement Request Form to:  
  
Agape Church  
P.O. Box 4242  
Laurel, MS 39441
5. Reimbursement checks will be mailed within two (2) to four (4) weeks after receipt of the form.



**Small Group  
Childcare  
Reimbursement  
Request**

**Reimbursement Check**

**Payable To:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER INFORMATION NEEDED TO PROCESS YOUR REQUEST**

Name of Small Group	Date Attended Small Group	# of Children	# of Hours	Reimbursement Amount Requested
				\$
Name of individual you paid to provide childcare in your home:				Amount you Paid \$
Small Group Leader's Name:				

**REIMBURSEMENT CHART**

Number of Children	Hours at Small Group			
	1	2	3	4
1	\$7.00	\$14.00	\$21.00	\$28.00
2	\$7.50	\$15.00	\$22.50	\$30.00
3	\$8.00	\$16.00	\$24.00	\$32.00
4	\$8.50	\$17.00	\$25.50	\$34.00
5	\$9.00	\$18.00	\$27.00	\$36.00

**SEE GUIDELINES ON REVERSE SIDE**



### SMALL GROUP LEADERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Male Female

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status (circle one): Single Engaged Married Divorced Widowed

Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PREVIOUS CHURCH EXPERIENCE AND BELIEFS

Name of church: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State of church: \_\_\_\_\_

How long did you attend this church?: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a born again Christian?  Yes  No How Long? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the statements that apply to you. I believe:

\_\_\_ the virgin birth and deity of Jesus Christ.

\_\_\_ that Jesus is God's Son and only sacrifice for sin.

\_\_\_ that Jesus rose bodily from the dead.

\_\_\_ that a person must be born again to receive eternal life.

\_\_\_ in the infallibility of the Holy Bible.

\_\_\_ in the eternal damnation of the lost.

How long have you regularly attended Agape Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of Agape Church?  Yes  No

Do you tithe regularly?  Yes  No

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Has anyone ever brought or threatened to bring a civil or criminal claim against you alleging physical or sexual abuse or sexual harassment? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

Have you ever been charged, arrested, or convicted of a felony or misdemeanor? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

Have you ever terminated your employment or had your employment terminated for reasons relating to allegations of physical or sexual abuse or sexual harassment? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

Have you ever been reprimanded as a student or employee for harassment of another individual or other inappropriate behavior with another individual? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

Is there anything in your past or present that might create confusion in the minds of others regarding your involvement in a leadership role at Agape Church? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUALIFICATIONS & LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT OF A SERVE TEAM MEMBER

*“The same goes for those who want to be servants in the church: serious, not deceitful, not too free with the bottle, not in it for what they can get out of it. They must be reverent before the mystery of the faith, not using their position to try to run things. Let them prove themselves first. If they show they can do it, take them on. No exceptions are to be made for women—same qualifications: serious, dependable, not sharp-tongued, not overfond of wine. Servants in the church are to be committed to their spouses, attentive to their own children, and diligent in looking after their own affairs. Those who do this servant work will come to be highly respected, a real credit to this Jesus-faith.”*

1 Timothy 3:8-13 (The Message)

## A SERVE TEAM MEMBER:

- Is sincere, worthy of respect, and of a good reputation.
- Tithes regularly to Agape Church.
- Has a genuine desire to serve and minister to other people.
- Leads, motivates, and teaches other people.
- Creates positive group dynamics and resolves conflict within the group.

I believe that I meet the qualifications for serving, and I agree to the following (Initial each statement)

\_\_\_\_\_ to become a member of Agape Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ to fulfill the mission, vision and purpose of Agape Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ to abide by the Leadership Honor Code as outlined above in 1 Timothy 3.

\_\_\_\_\_ to complete Discover Agape in the next 4-6 weeks.

**By signing below, I certify that the information contained in this application is complete, accurate, and not misleading in any way. Should my application be accepted, I agree to submit to the policies and procedures of Agape Church membership, and to refrain from unscriptural conduct in the performance of my services on behalf of Agape Church.**

**Signature of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



**theagape.church**  
415 CENTRAL AVENUE LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39440

## **LEADERSHIP HONOR CODE**

As an essential part of the Agape Church Leadership family, you have a responsibility to develop and exhibit mature Christian behavior. This should be the basic premise of your desire to participate in a servant-leader position here at Agape Church.

While serving the Body of Christ as a servant-leader at Agape Church, you pledge to present a good appearance at all times. In both attire and behavior, you should strive to demonstrate Biblical standards in all situations.

As Christians, the way we present ourselves to others is of vital importance to the way others perceive Christ. Our conduct should never be an embarrassment to Christ, but should exemplify the best qualities of a mature believer and servant-leader.

Exemplifying the highest moral commitment, leaders at Agape Church are to maintain a disciplined life of Bible reading, prayer, and fasting. You must also refrain from such things as:

- profanity
- gambling
- indulging in much wine or other alcoholic beverages
- dishonest gain
- illegal drugs
- pornography
- sexual immorality
- all behaviors which might cause Christ to grieve and others to stumble

By providing an example in speech and action, we encourage others to grow in Christ and become servants-leaders themselves. This is a way of life measured by the heart and commitment of each leader in the Agape Church family. We should regard it as an essential part of our development, not as an imposition or restriction.

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_