
SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR GUIDE

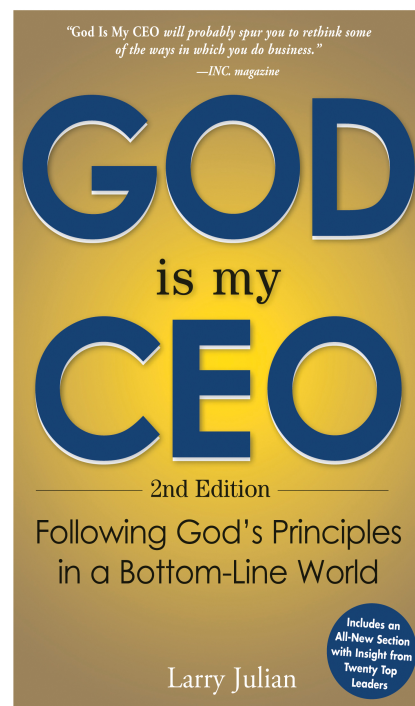
God is My CEO's Twelve Week Program

Take your work and faith to another level. Connecting with a small group of like-minded peers in a trusting environment is a proven vehicle to help you succeed and grow personally, professionally, and spiritually.

God designed you to work. Work was designed by God. If these two statements are true, then one of the most important endeavors you can embrace is to bring your faith and work into harmony. The result is a life of meaning, purpose, satisfaction, and eternal significance.

God knew we would be unable to handle life's challenges on our own. He also knew that our independence and pride would make it difficult for us to both receive help from others and support them in return. To encourage and help us on our journey, God has given us Himself,

and He's given us others. One of my central beliefs is that *God blesses through people*. We must be meaningfully connected with others who will help us follow through on God's call and to whom we can provide support. By exploring the question "*How do I join my faith and work?*" with a small discussion group of trusted peers based on *God Is My CEO's* biblical principles, you'll have the support necessary to overcome the challenges before you. As a result, you'll be better able to serve others—in all areas of your life—through your experiences and God-given wisdom.



For over a decade, God Is My CEO has helped leaders connect with others in a safe, non-threatening way to share ideas and insights on being a godly leader.

Why a small group?

Throughout history, small groups have always been a part of God's plan. Jesus had the Twelve. Paul had Timothy, Silas, and the rest of his team. Fast-forward over a thousand years, and Dr. King had his small group. So did Mother Theresa, William Wilberforce, and John Wesley. Bottom-line, small groups can lead to big things. If we want to follow in the footsteps of those who changed the history of the world, perhaps the best place to start is where they did: by being part of a committed small group of trusted peers.

I don't know anyone who doesn't want to be more effective, connected, wise, and true to his or her convictions. We have an inborn desire to be part of something bigger. At the same time, today's leader is stressed by uncertainty, adversity, and complexity. A common link in the experience of all of our heroes of the faith is simple: they were part of a small, committed group of friends. There's something about the way God made us—and the conflicting world that surrounds us—that the best way to grow, learn, commit and progress is to be intentionally linked to a small group.

How to get the most out of your small group

God Is My CEO is a catalyst for your personal transformation. But reading the words on the pages just won't cut it. Your transformation is going to come down to your relationships with God and with others.

Therefore, I'm asking you to set aside time alone to thought-fully and prayerfully answer the questions in the Discussion Guide. Then I want you to connect with others to talk through the Discussion Guide. Together, these processes will help you discover the Truth, overcome your obstacles, and become the success God intended.

Your 12 Week *God Is My CEO* small group will help you serve others and allow them to support you. While this takes time, energy and commitment, you'll find that serving others also serves you. When you connect with others via your small group, you manifest the truths you grasped while alone. To quote a close friend, "What you keep for yourself, you lose. What you share, you keep." Through the process of sharing a truth you've realized, you help others learn from your experiences and the truth becomes internalized in you.



*For where two or three
come together in my
name, there am I with
them.*

Matthew 18:20

Meet with Larry Julian



Larry Julian is available to meet with you and your small group via Skype or conference call for a minimal fee (schedule permitting).

If you're interested in having Larry facilitate a one-hour session with your group — perhaps your introductory or closing meeting — please contact him at larry@larryjulian.com.

Larry Julian, Author of *God Is My CEO*



Starting a small group

- ✓ Pray. Ask God to bring names and faces to mind as you seek candidates for your small group. Think about the people you encounter at work, your neighborhood, your child's little league, etc. Be open to any and all people who come to mind.
- ✓ Start with people you know and trust. If you already know a number of people who may be interested in joining a small group study, a personal invitation is best. You may be part of a Bible study, networking group, or special interest group gatherings as part of an association you belong to. Start there.
- ✓ If you don't know where to begin, connect with your local church or a work/faitth organization to obtain their assistance with a mailing list. There has been explosive growth in the work and faith movement. In all likelihood, there's already an organization in your community.
- ✓ An effective small group can range in size from 5 to 12 people.
- ✓ Make the time commitment manageable. Most people can commit to meetings that are an hour to an hour and a half in length. A morning discussion time, such as from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., will start your day with focus and still allow people to meet their obligations.
- ✓ Small groups can occur anywhere from once a week to every other week to once a month. Let the group determine the frequency that works within their schedule. The important point is to make a predetermined and consistent time commitment.

How to facilitate a small group

- ✓ *Create a safe and trusting environment.* The ideal environment is one where trusted peers feel free to be totally open and vulnerable in sharing. Therefore, it's imperative that all participants agree to create a "safe" atmosphere that allows for deep discussion. While it's not necessary for a successful outcome, some groups decide on a set of ground rules before getting started (i.e., nothing discussed leaves the room, respect each other, don't interrupt, etc.).
 - ✓ *Focus on establishing rapport in your first meeting.* Make the first session more introductory in nature. Allow the members to get to know each other before jumping into the material. Ask each person to introduce him/herself and share something about his or her work, home, interests, etc. After introductions, ask participants the following questions.
 - *What motivated you to be a part of the God Is My CEO small group?*
 - *What expectations do you have? What do you want to get out of the study?*
 - *What concerns do you have?*
 - ✓ *Keep the format simple.* A good agenda has a brief introduction that identifies the goal of that day's discussion, then the discussion itself followed by a brief closing. Consider starting the meeting in prayer, inviting the Lord into the meeting, and ending in prayer.
 - ✓ *Focus on one chapter per meeting.* *God Is My CEO* provides 12 chapters with questions for group discussion (introduction and eleven chapters, along with a conclusion). Here is a basic framework to facilitate a typical one to one-and-a-half hour session;
 - The leader begins the meeting and asks for specific areas for prayer and/or celebration (10-15 minutes)
 - The leader introduces the basic theme, overview or description of the chapter, and then solicits feedback from group participants and facilitates a brief discussion around the overall topic. (10-15 minutes)
 - Using the discussion questions at the end of each chapter, the leader facilitates responses and discussion from the questions. (20-40 minutes)
 - The facilitator summarizes lessons learned and, if applicable, challenges group members to live out what they've discovered until they meet again.
 - ✓ *Progress, not perfection.* While you may want to assign a group leader to facilitate the discussion, you may also alternate who is responsible for facilitating each meeting. You could rotate between two or three designated leaders, or among all the members in your small group. Regardless, don't get hung up on how to be a good facilitator. By encouraging honest responses to the questions, discussion will naturally follow.
 - ✓ *Seek feedback.* Periodically seek feedback so you can adjust the small group discussion to fit the group's needs.
 - ✓ *Be flexible and adjust accordingly* There is no formula on how long or deep your group wants to go. You may find that a particular chapter is worth taking a couple of extra sessions to allow for substantive discussion or you may also want to go through the *God Is My CEO Business Plan* as a group. Use the Facilitator's Guide as a tool to help you and your peers grow professionally, personally, and spiritually.
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