

Red Letter Challenge FAQs

What is a small group?

A simple definition of a small group is: "A micro-community of 2 to 12 Jesus followers doing the Christian life deeply together."

Your small group may be you and your spouse, your immediate or extended family, your co-workers, your Saturday morning coffee group, your weekly Bible study, your mom's group, etc. There does not have to be a label or defined guidelines for something to be a "small group". However, once you can identify your small group and nurture those Christ-like relationships intentionally, God works in powerful ways.

What is the Red Letter Challenge (RLC)?

"The mission of Red Letter Challenge (RLC) is to help people live more like Jesus. Sadly, when people think of Jesus-followers it is a far cry from who Jesus actually is. After all that Jesus has done for us, we cannot be content with the picture and representation that we are sharing. We must change the story and perception of who Jesus is. At RLC, we believe that if people truly met the real Jesus, they would really fall in love with Him...

The RLC is unique because it takes Christ's literal words and gives you practical daily challenges based on those words. The RLC will give you targets to shoot for to help you measure how you are practically following after Him. RLC believes that Jesus followers want to be the best Jesus followers that we can be not out of obligation, but out of gratitude for what Jesus has done for us!"

What does it mean to be a small group leader for the RLC?

"If you are a small group leader of adults (or you're thinking about becoming one), you're the hero of the church. You have the courage to focus on a small community of people and make a difference one discussion, one lesson, and one group meeting at a time. You are following the last command Jesus gave His followers: Go make disciples and change the world.

It's a big challenge to which Jesus offered a "small" solution: The power of community or leveraging the place where we live." – Heather Zempel, *Big Change Small Groups*

Specific to the RLC, being a small group leader for these next forty days will require you to dedicate yourself in prayer for your group members and yourself as you walk through this challenge together. As the leader you will be expected to prepare for your meetings ahead of time, schedule and attend the meetings, and provide a safe space for sharing and encouragement in the group. A small group leader does not need to have all the answers or a certain personality to effectively ask questions. Your commitment to the challenge and the group is what will make your leadership successful.

Red Letter Challenge FAQs

Where can I get the RLC study materials?

The church will offer copies of the RLC book at a suggested donation of \$10, but if you or members of your group are able to purchase your copy ahead of time or on your own, this is also a good option. The book is available at: <https://www.redletterchallenge.com/shop/>

The book is also available on websites such as Amazon.

Where can I access the small group videos provided for the RLC?

These short small group videos are provided free on their website at: <https://www.redletterchallenge.com/free-resources/small-group-videos/>

Our church RLC package also includes multiple physical copies of the videos on a DVD, which can be distributed to groups accordingly. There will also be at least one copy kept in the church library where all groups can access it at any time.

When does my group need to start meeting?

Sunday, September 8th, will be the beginning of our challenge as a church, but the first week's sermon and Bible class will serve as a starting point and introduction to the challenge. Ideally, groups should start meeting sometime the week of Sunday, September 15th. This will have your small group starting the book at the same time as the rest of the congregation and will help us to grow together as a larger community.

Where should my small group meet?

Wherever you feel your group will be most comfortable and able to focus on the material. If your group already has a set meeting place stick with that, but if this small group is a new creation, feel free to utilize rooms within the church, your home, or quiet meeting places within the community.

Do I invite others to be a part of my group or does the church assign members to my group?

Our hope is for small group leaders to feel comfortable enough to invite whomever they feel would like to participate in this challenge with them. You can invite your family, your friends, co-workers, fellow members, etc.

However, we also have individual members or families interested in joining a small group and not being a leader. If they haven't already received an invitation from you, we will place these members within the appropriate small group as the staff as we see fit.

How does the Sunday worship theme relate to the Red Letter Challenge?

Red Letter Challenge FAQs

The Sunday morning worship theme and sermon will introduce the challenge and topic for the week, in order to prepare members ahead of time.

How does the Sunday morning Bible class fit into the RLC curriculum?

The Sunday morning Bible class will continue to dive deeper into the sermon texts which will follow the Red Letter Challenge for 40 days, but will not repeat the work done within your small group.

What do I do if my study group cannot meet every week?

Our suggestion is to at the very least meet once every two weeks, and discuss two chapters/weeks at your small group meeting. For example, you may encourage your group members to read through the next two chapters and participate in those challenges on their own, and then cover both chapters as a small group in your meeting.

What if I feel the curriculum materials do not fit my groups focus perfectly?

Please feel free to adjust the curriculum as you see fit, and to utilize our church resources and educationally trained staff (DCE's). Both Craig Busseau and Lydia Ross are willing to work with groups looking to rework the curriculum for their group.

What happens when the RLC ends in forty days?