



ORANGE  
JOURNAL

lead  
small.

FREE SAMPLER

## LEAD SMALL

FIVE BIG IDEAS EVERY SMALL GROUP LEADER  
NEEDS TO KNOW

REGGIE JOINER    TOM SHEFCHUNAS

We hope you enjoy this complimentary sample of *Lead Small: Five Big Ideas Every Small Group Leader Needs to Know*, by Reggie Joiner and Tom Shefchunas.

This sample contains the introduction, information about the authors, and the complete table of contents.

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*Lead Small*  
is available in print and digital versions.



lead  
small.

## ENDORSEMENTS

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"Thanks for playing really fun games to help me learn. It's cool that you have a Bible on your phone!"

**(4TH GRADE BOY)**

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"I like knowing that what we tell you is completely confidential to our group. Thank you for not judging us based on what we tell you. I like it that I care about your opinion a lot. I really respect you on a very high level."

**(10TH GRADE GIRL)**

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"I miss you. You were my small group leader in preschool. You have the best hugs and the best smile. That's why I still visit you."

**(2ND GRADE BOY)**

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"You help me connect to God in a fun way on like a personal and enjoyable level. You like, relate to us and help us follow God's path . . . with swag."

**(8TH GRADE BOY)**

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"I want to model myself after you. I look up to you. The morals that you hold us to are the same morals you hold personally. I love how we can confide in you and know that not only are we going to get solid advice, but you support us even through our mistakes."

**(12TH GRADE GIRL)**

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“You influenced me because you invested in me relationally. You knew my interests. You knew my hobbies. You were right there and got to know my family. You were the guy who could say, “Yea, that’s dumb,” or “That’s not good for you,” and I would listen. You modeled what it was like to be a small group leader. That kind of made me become interested in ministry because I watched you do it.”

**(25 YEAR-OLD MAN, WHO NOW LEADS A 6TH GRAD SMALL GROUP)**

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Lead Small

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Cumming, GA 30040 U.S.A.

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ISBN: 978-0-9854116-2-6

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Printed in the United States of America  
First Edition 2012

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

04/20/12

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## DEDICATION

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This book is dedicated to all the small group leaders everywhere. For all the early Sunday mornings, all the late, late Friday nights, the sugar highs and the emotional lows, the sticky hugs and the difficult phone calls. Thank you for your commitment to the next generation.

## ABOUT THIS BOOK

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After almost 50 years of combined ministry experience, we knew we wanted to write a book to small group leaders. We saw two possible ways of achieving that goal. We could either go out and find the singular most incredible small group leader on the planet and ask them to write a book, or we could create a team of small groups leaders and draw from their collective experiences. For their creativity, their transparency, and their commitment to live out this idea of leading small, we would like to thank Abbey Carr, Eryn Erickson, Kristen Ivy, Cara Martens, Kristie McCollister, Matt McKee, Sue Miller, Courtney Templeton, Lauren Terrell, Jeremy Zach and Mikaela Zach.

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## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

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As a guide for small group leaders of all ages, we realize not all the topics and examples will apply evenly across the board. As students grow, the role of a small group leader changes. Some practices that we ask of a preschool leader, we would never encourage from a student leader. And some things a good student leader will do, would be entirely inappropriate at the preschool stage. As you go through this book, you will notice journal sections intended to help you put some of your own ideas into practice.

Look for the P, C and S to help you figure out how each topic can apply specifically for the age group you lead.



Preschool



Children



Students

## FOREWORD

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So, you're in charge of a small group of kids.  
(Well, not "in charge" ... that's really their parents.)

So, you teach a small group of kids.  
(Actually, their teachers and coaches really do that ...)

So, you hang out with a small group of kids.  
(No ... their friends really have that covered.)

So, what *do* you do? Where do you fit? What is your role?

And even more, *why*?

Actually, those exact questions are probably why you bought this book. Or, more likely, were given this book by your church. Or, even *more* likely, picked it up thinking it was a guide for *leading* your *small* plastic green army men to victory over the dangerous barrel of monkeys.

In the latter case, this is not the book for you. Put the book down. Try the "Gaming" section. It's probably on the lower shelves.

For all others, this is your handbook, your user guide, your journal.

Read it.

Contemplate it.

Personalize it.

Let's get started.



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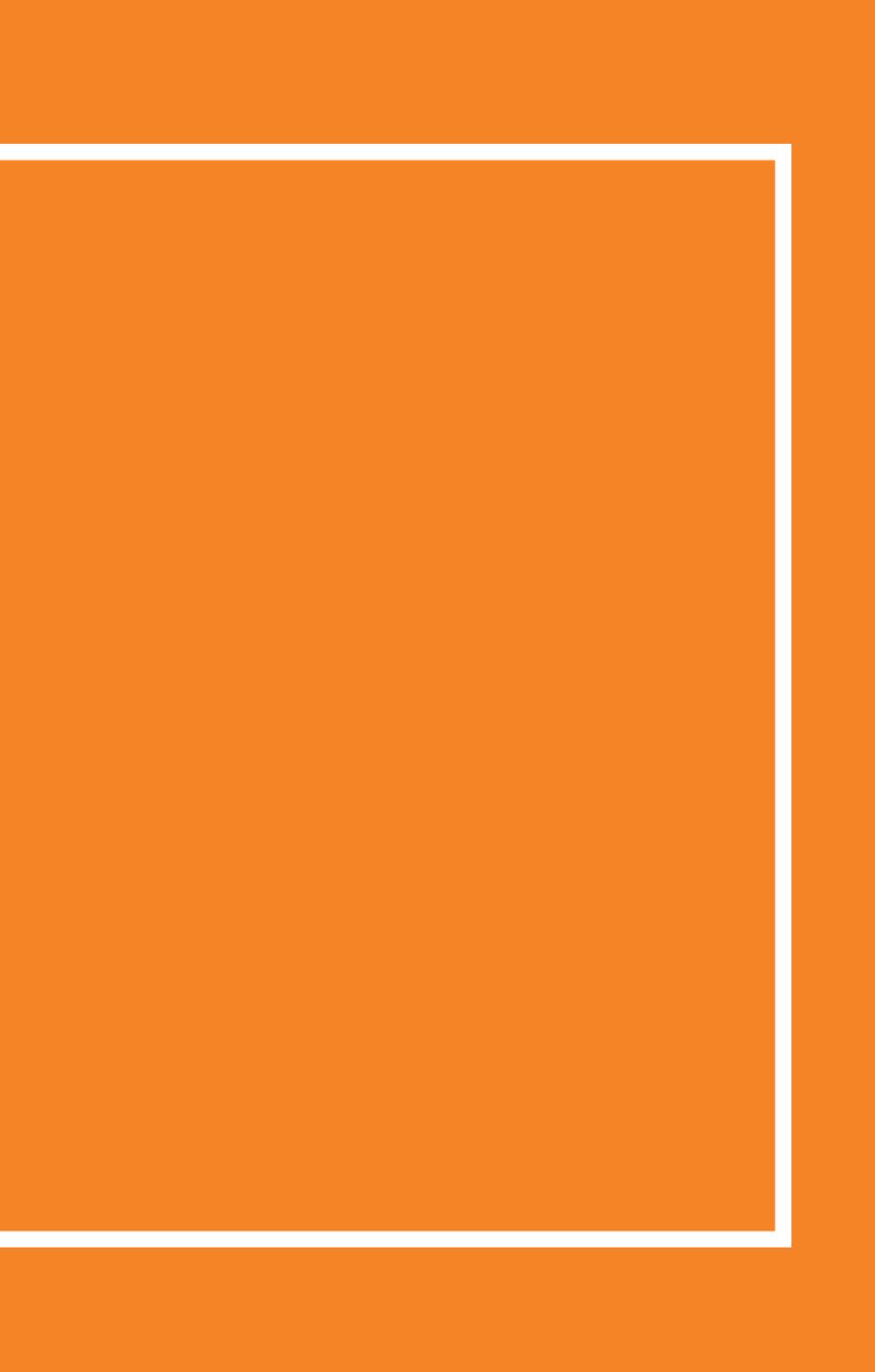


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**big  
challenge**



## BIG CHALLENGE. SMALL SOLUTION.

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We have a challenge. A BIG challenge. Most studies today indicate that at least half of students will walk away from their faith in college. Why?

Pushy professors?  
Radical roommates?  
Cynical sweethearts?

Although these may be the easy mark, the real culprit starts long before English 101. It's not something they come across on campus. It's not lying in wait beneath dorm room lofts.

It's something they bring from home. It's packed in their bags next to their "shower shoes," beneath the keepsake from a nearly forgotten high-school romance.

*It's a pseudo, immature, green, borrowed or fragile faith.*

Now, before you start the blame game, we, as parents and leaders in their lives, didn't necessarily fail them. Think about their stage of life.

They are young.  
They have a lot to learn.  
A long way to go.  
They have yet to experience life at its fullest.

Their faith is, to some degree, **unchallenged**.

So, now that you understand the BIG challenge, what's the solution?

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This is where you come in. Your goal is to raise kids with a stronger faith. With what we call authentic faith.

If you're wondering what that looks like, it's probably something like what Paul described when he wrote to Timothy:



"Okay son, listen up because you are out on your own now—ready to do what God called you to do. You will need to hold onto the commands I'm giving you so that you can fight a good fight. Hold onto faith. Have a good conscience. Don't reject them and suffer like others have done,"  
(1 Timothy 1:18-19, RJLT).<sup>1</sup>



Isn't that what we are after? We want a generation to grow up holding onto a faith that is rooted in scripture. We want kids who place their trust in God, not only

In a moment

At VBS

On the last night of camp

But *every day*.

We want them to have a really **BIG** faith—  
an authentic faith.

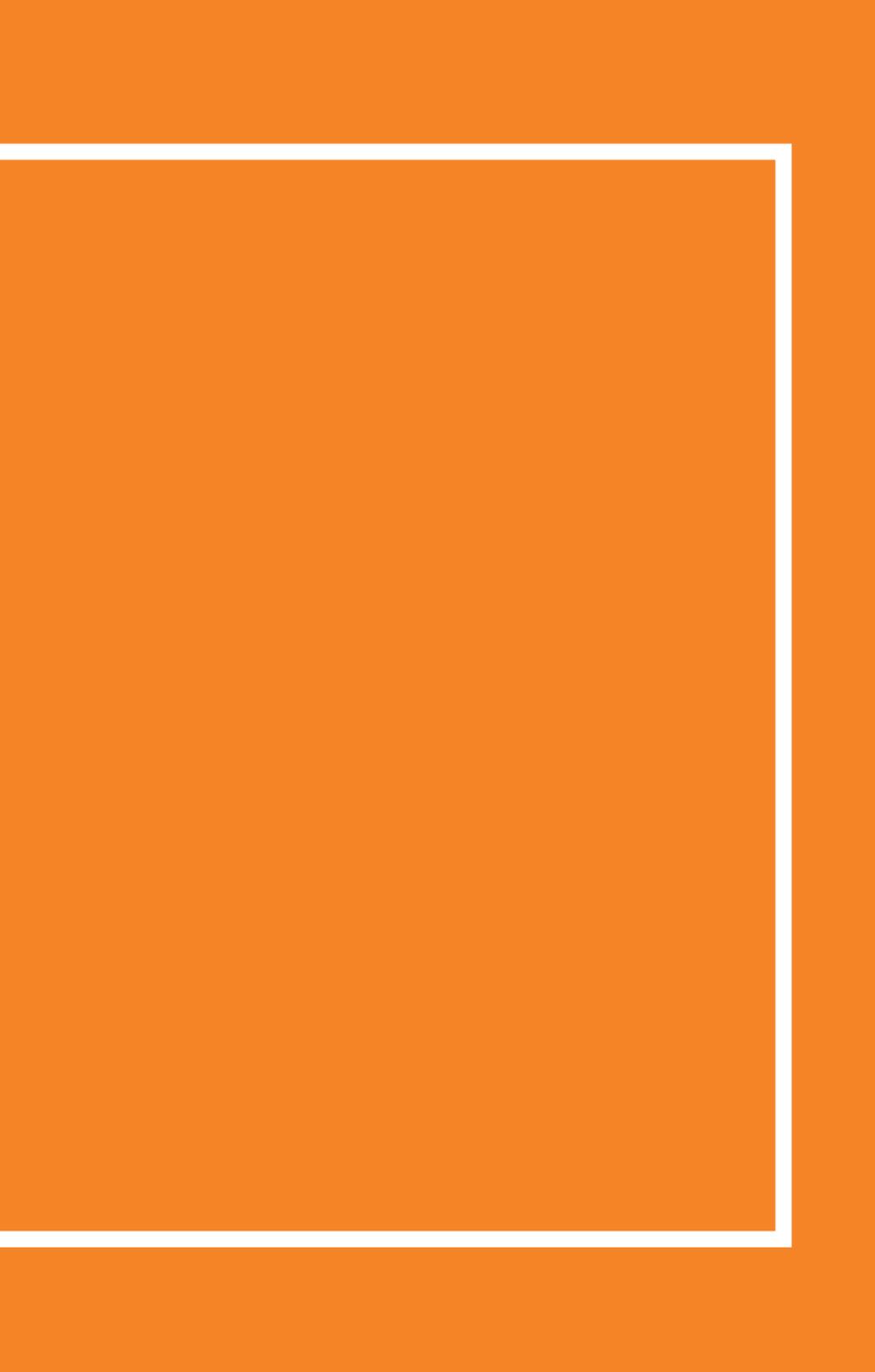
And the only way you can cultivate  
authentic faith is through leading **SMALL**.

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<sup>1</sup> RJLT = Reggie Joiner Loose Translation. This is not a real translation.



**lead  
small**



## Lead Small

“What do you mean ‘lead *small*’?”

“Shouldn’t I make a BIG difference?”

“What about changing the world?”

Most people dream of  
finding an opportunity to do  
something BIG.  
To make a BIG change.  
To lead BIG.

That’s why we ...

Accumulate Facebook friends and Twitter followers

Make videos in hopes of going viral

Climb the corporate ladders

Audition for “So You Think You Have the Voice to Dance with  
the Biggest Loser.”

In fact, most of us believe—

The best way to make a  
BIG difference is to get a  
big following.

And when the masses don’t follow,  
when the 11 o’clock news isn’t knocking down the door ...

We try something else.  
Something BIG.

Like dancing on an over-sized keyboard with Tom Hanks.

But ...

---

What if the things we consider BIG  
Don't matter as much as we think?

What if the biggest difference is made  
By not doing something big at all?

What if the biggest things are really accomplished  
By doing something **SMALL**?

If we aren't careful,  
we can work so hard at leading big  
we never experience the power  
of leading small.

When we lead small we realize  
that what we **do for a few** will always have more potential  
than what we do for many.

When we **lead small** we simply make a  
choice to invest strategically in the lives  
of a few over time so we can help them  
build an authentic faith.

---

We lead small to build authentic faith.

It's the principle this book is dedicated to.

You are the person this book is dedicated to.

You are a **SMALL** group leader.

You had the courage to think **SMALL** enough to take on the  
BIG challenge.

You chose to invest in the few lives in your group.

And while group members come in all sizes—

Those who wear pampers

Those who watch Disney

Those who have squeaky voices

Those who are learning to drive

Those who are picking a college—

Every size, every age, needs the kind of influence you have the potential to give.

**But what exactly do you do?**

**What exactly is your role?**

You may feel lost at times, like you fall somewhere between a parent and a friend, a coach and a teacher. Remember, you aren't supposed to be *any* of those things. You are a little of *all* of those things.

You're a little bit of a friend, parent, coach, *and* teacher combined. Let's say you're a Friend ... Poacher?

No, that's bad. Let's just stick with small group leader.

Or **SGL**.

And when we say SGL, we are talking about anyone who chooses to invest in the lives of a few to encourage authentic faith.

As you read this book, you will discover how to ...

**BE PRESENT**

**CREATE A SAFE PLACE**

**PARTNER WITH PARENTS**

**MAKE IT PERSONAL**

**MOVE THEM OUT**

Even more, you will understand how these five strategies will encourage the personal, vibrant, passionate, tested, living, authentic faith needed to face our big challenge. And why the only way to fully invest in these strategies is by leading **SMALL**.

**As you read, you will also notice a few important graphics.**



A circle represents a group. Not a group of wild boar. (Although, they may seem to be at times.) A group of students or kids. And not just any group. *Your* group.



A large orange dot represents YOU. The SGL. Don't you look good?



A small dot represents one individual in your circle. Someone you are leading.



A home represents ... well, a student's home. What else would it be?

A dotted line is just a dotted line. I think you get the point.

So, I guess we're done. Now you know absolutely all you need to know to be a good SGL. You have all the tools you'll need: a circle, two dots, a home, and a dotted line.

**So, go out and lead**

**Invest.**

**Encourage.**

**Change lives.**

**No? Things still a little fuzzy? Okay, okay. I'll explain a little more.**

## AUTHOR BIOS

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### **REGGIE JOINER**

Reggie Joiner is founder of Orange, a team of innovative writers, creators, and doers who are devoted to influencing those who influence the next generations. He is one of the founding pastors of North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, Ga. In his 11 years as the executive director of Family Ministry, Reggie led a staff to create relevant environments and resources for preschoolers, children, students, and married adults. His other books include *Seven Practices of Effective Ministries*, *Think Orange*, *Parenting Beyond Your Capacity*, *The Orange Leader Handbook*, and *The Orange Wardrobe: How to Incorporate Orange-wear 24/7/365*. (Okay, that last one hasn't made it off the editor's desk yet.) Reggie and his wife, Debbie are currently paying for all four of their children to finish college. He's seriously considering working the late shift at Starbucks.

**TOM SHEFCHUNAS**

Tom is the North Point Ministries Multi-Campus Director of Transit (Middle School). Tom's passion involves working with the campus directors and their teams, as well as recruiting and developing the hundreds of volunteer small group leaders it takes to pull off Transit at the five campuses. He is also the co-founder of [uthmin.net](http://uthmin.net), an online community of strategic student leaders. Tom and his wife Julie live in Cumming, Georgia, with their three children, Mac, Joey and Cooper.



## MORE FROM ORANGE BOOKS

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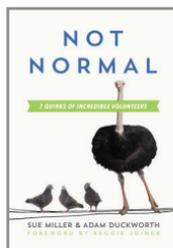
Strategy, best practices, training tips, and real-life stories—***Creating a Lead Small Culture: Make Your Church a Place Where Kids Belong*** has what you need to create an effective small group culture in your church. For every leader of small group leaders.

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***Make Believe: 5 Things Great Student Pastors Choose to Believe*** is for student leaders. It explores five ideas that combine faith and imagination—plus practical steps to turn those beliefs into behaviors—with the goal of reinvigorating student pastors’ hearts and ministries.

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Volunteering is special and extraordinary. Yet the idea of giving time to a cause that is bigger than ourselves, for no monetary reward, may be new and strange to many people. ***Not Normal: 7 Quirks of Incredible Volunteers*** is for every volunteer as well as the leader whose job it is to find and keep great volunteers. It explores seven characteristics—quirks—that make volunteering at church a unique and fulfilling experience.

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