

# Huddle FAQ

Huddles are one of the vehicles the Branch is using to help build a culture of discipleship and mission. Below are a number of frequently asked questions. If you have a question that isn't included here, please let us know!

## 1) What is the purpose of a huddle?

One of the main purposes of huddles are to train and equip future leaders at the Branch — they are our main leadership development tool. Through organized time together in a huddle, as well as organic time spent outside of the huddle, participants learn the tools and skills they need to not only be able to make disciples, but teach others to do the same.

Huddles are also a place to give and receive encouragement and accountability. They are a place where people are both invited and challenged to be more like Jesus in character and competency.

## 2) How many people are in a huddle?

Huddles can range in size from 4-10 people. Huddles can be co-ed or gender based.

## 3) How often do huddles meet?

Huddles generally meet for 75-90 minutes. Some meet every week, while others meet every other, depending on the participants' needs.

## 4) How long do huddles meet?

Generally, huddles meet for 9-12 months.

## 5) What happens once a huddle has ended?

After 9-12 months, the participants of a huddle take the tools and learning they've received and intentionally invest it in others. This can happen a number of different ways: some huddle participants will start and lead new huddles; others may lead a missional community; still others a small group.

## 6) Who leads a huddle?

Huddles are led by someone(s) who has been in a huddle themselves. Huddle leaders are not perfect examples of a disciple, but they are living examples. They willingly and openly share their lives, as well as the tools they have received, with those they are discipling.

## 7) Are huddles another name for small groups?

Huddles and small groups may be similar in size, but they are *not* the same. Both have important, needed and different purposes. Here are some distinctions:

Small groups can meet together indefinitely.

Huddles meet for 9-12 months.

Small groups participants *may* split off or leave to form new small groups, but this tends to be the exception, not the rule.

Huddle participants make a commitment to take what they've been given in huddle and invest it in others once the huddle is finished (there are lots of ways this might look. See #5 above).

Small groups can operate with or without a clear leader.

Huddles have a clear leader who has made the intentional choice to open up their life and pour themselves into those they are discipling.

Small groups often, but not always, provide a level of accountability to their participants, and usually it is low and relaxed.

Huddles have a consistent, high level of accountability and challenge.

Small groups exist primarily to build deep, personal, intimate relationships, and to provide a place for people to discuss Scripture, ideas, books, etc. with the purpose of growth and faith.

Huddles exist primarily to train and equip future leaders to become disciples who can make other disciples.

## 8) How does someone participate in a huddle?

Because huddles are places of high accountability and challenge, it works best to have a strong level of trust between the person leading the huddle and those being huddled. For this reason, more often than not, the person leading the huddle invites people into the relationship.

That said, if a person is sensing a call to leadership and discipleship and is ready to join a huddle, we want to know!

***Is there a question you have that we didn't answer? Let us know!***