

Introducing Celebrate Recovery  
– a pack for UK churches



Celebrate  
Recovery  
UK

## PRESENTATION 2: HANDOUT

# SETTING UP CELEBRATE RECOVERY IN YOUR CHURCH

Celebrate Recovery meetings need to look like Celebrate Recovery.

Five Ps of starting a Celebrate Recovery programme: **Pray; People; Prepare; Plan; Publicise**

## PRAY

*"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain" Psalm 127:1*

## PEOPLE

Three types of people you need in order to build your Celebrate Recovery well.

### 1 Your church leaders

The DNA of Celebrate Recovery tells us,

#5 We expect each group to be accountable to Christ, the local church, and the model of Celebrate Recovery established at Saddleback Church.

### 2 Your team of Celebrate Recovery leaders

You'll need a minimum of two men and two women. Look for people who love Jesus and are willing to be transparent about their own hurts, hang-ups and habits.

### 3 Celebrate Recovery UK regional representatives

The UK Team of regional reps are here to support and guide you. Find their contact details on the website [celebraterecovery.co.uk](http://celebraterecovery.co.uk).

## PREPARE

The team needs to familiarise themselves with the programme.

- › Attend the Celebrate Recovery meetings of an established group
- › Purchase the Celebrate Recovery curriculum – the Leader's Guide and 4 Participant's Guides
- › Read through the Leader's Guide. Note well the DNA, Principles, General Meeting Night format, and 90-Day Kick-off Strategy:

## **The DNA of authentic Celebrate Recovery ministries**

1. Jesus Christ is the one and only Higher Power. The programme is a Christ-centred ministry.
2. The Bible and Celebrate Recovery curriculum are to be used exclusively. The Large Group lessons are taught from the Leader's Guide, keeping at least the acrostic and the Scriptures as the key points in the lessons. This is to keep consistency within groups, allowing teachers to be creative with the introduction and conclusion of each lesson.
3. The ministry is "group based." All groups are gender-specific and "The Five Small Group Guidelines" are implemented and followed every time.
4. Celebrate Recovery is designed to be done in face-to-face meetings. That is the most effective form for building healthy ongoing connections and long-term growth and recovery. As such, there will be no Celebrate Recovery programmes that are online only. Instead, online groups must be connected to a local in-person Celebrate Recovery.
5. We expect each group to be accountable to Christ, the local church, and the model of Celebrate Recovery established at Saddleback Church.
6. Celebrate Recovery is a ministry of the local church. Therefore, Celebrate Recovery will not attempt to dictate any doctrine or policy to a local church. A local Celebrate Recovery ministry should follow the policies of their local church and continue to be grateful for their continued support.

## **The Principles**

1. Realise I'm not God. I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and that my life is unmanageable.  
*Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor. Matthew 5:3*
2. Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.  
*Happy are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:4*
3. Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.  
*Happy are the meek. Matthew 5:5*
4. Openly examine and confess my faults to God, to myself, and to someone I trust.  
*Happy are the pure in heart. Matthew 5:8*
5. Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.  
*Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires. Matthew 5:6*
6. Evaluate all my relationships. Offer forgiveness to those who have hurt me and make amends for the harm I've done to others except when to do so would harm them or others.  
*Happy are the merciful & Happy are the peacemakers. Matthew 5: 7,9*
7. Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.
8. Yield myself to God to be used to bring this Good News to others both by my example and by my words.  
*Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires.*  
Matthew 5: 10

## The General Meeting Night Format

### 1. Large Group Time

*Worship, Reading of Celebrate Recovery's 8 Principles or the 12 Steps, a Celebrate Recovery lesson or testimony, Prayer for Serenity*

### 2. Open Share Groups (*men-only and women-only groups*)

*These meetings follow 'Five Small Group Guidelines'. Please note that the Participant's Guides\* are NOT used in Open Share Groups at your General Meeting Night.*

### 3. Fellowship Time

## The "90-Day Kick-off Strategy"

This is Saddleback's checklist for getting ready to launch.

- › Work through the four Participant's Guides together
- › Ask your nearest regional representative for advice

## PLAN

- › Use 'The 90-day Kick-off Strategy' (from the Leader's Guide) as a check list
- › Continue working through the Participant's Guides together
- › Identify people for key roles
- › Agree Your General Meeting Night

## PUBLICITY

- › Visible Senior Pastor support
- › Testimonies in church
- › UK Newsletters – provide information about the programme
- › Flyers – generic flyers can be purchased from [enquiries@celebraterecovery.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@celebraterecovery.co.uk).
- › UK website for groups that have been running for 3 months or longer.  
These groups must abide by the DNA of Celebrate Recovery, run weekly meetings, and base the General Meeting Night on Saddleback's format of Large Group Time, Open Share Groups and Fellowship Time. They should offer at least one men's and one women's Open Share Group so that newcomers are welcome any week

Presentation 3: 'The Weekly General Meeting Night' gives more detail about the format and structure of Celebrate Recovery meetings.

The handout, 'Further Help', contains web addresses for purchasing resources and the Celebrate Recovery UK website where you'll find contact details of the UK Team. Get in touch if you haven't already.

*\*Participant's Guides are not used in Open Share Groups. Open Share Groups need to be open to newcomers every week. The purpose of Open Share Groups is to allow people to share, without interruption or fixing, about what is going on in their lives and recovery. The Participant's Guides are designed for use in single-sex Step Study Groups which are a next step in growing your recovery ministry. Step Studies are designed to run at a different time in the week to the General Meeting Night for people who wish to go deeper into the recovery process.*