

Introducing Celebrate Recovery
– a pack for UK churches



Celebrate
Recovery
UK

PRESENTATION 2: SCRIPT

SETTING UP CELEBRATE RECOVERY IN YOUR CHURCH

>>> POWERPOINT SLIDE 1

Celebrate Recovery meetings need to look like Celebrate Recovery.

In the presentation “Introducing Celebrate Recovery”, you heard what Celebrate Recovery is all about. In this presentation we give you helpful hints about getting Celebrate Recovery started in your church.

It's very important, when planning to start Celebrate Recovery, to look at what Celebrate Recovery at Saddleback says about it and see how it's done there. As the founder of the ministry, they know best about why things are done the way they are.

When we use the Celebrate Recovery name, we agree to follow the DNA of Celebrate Recovery in order to keep the programme in line with the way it was designed. (*More on this later*)

>>> SLIDE 2

In the Leader's Guide, Saddleback provide a “90-Day Kick-off Strategy” with advice for getting Celebrate Recovery launched. Please use it to guide your planning.

This presentation offers guidance based on the experience of the Celebrate Recovery UK Team. We hope this will help you to establish a Celebrate Recovery group in line with the DNA set out by Saddleback Church – a format that works!

>>> SLIDE 3

Here are the five Ps of Starting a Celebrate Recovery programme:-

Pray; People; Prepare; Plan; Publicise

Let's take each **P** in turn, starting with **Pray**.

>>> SLIDE 4

This programme is God's programme! We need to make sure we keep Him at the centre of it all the time. So start with prayer! Commit your planning to Him as well as the people He wants to help through your Celebrate Recovery ministry and those who'll serve in it.

"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

We're not to build Celebrate Recovery in our own ways and strength. We need God to build it!

The second **P** is **People**.

>>> SLIDE 5

There's a saying in recovery, "The road to recovery is not meant to be travelled alone." We need people alongside us! It's also true that you can't run Celebrate Recovery on your own - you need people alongside you!

There are three types of people you need in order to build your Celebrate Recovery well.

>>> SLIDE 6

1 Your church leaders

Celebrate Recovery is a ministry of the local church. Therefore you need the support and guidance of your church leaders.

The DNA of Celebrate Recovery tells us,

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

Work with your leaders. Their support keeps you safe and accountable, and will make it acceptable for church members to be in recovery.

There are many ways your church leaders can support you and the programme - not least in promoting and endorsing it to the whole church. Your church leader needs to be your biggest supporter! Be open and transparent with them. Ask them for their advice over key decisions.

>>> SLIDE 7

2 Your team of Celebrate Recovery leaders

You can't run this programme single-handedly. You'll need a minimum of two men and two women. Look for people who love Jesus and are living for Him, people willing to be transparent about their own hurts, hang-ups and habits.

Your church leaders may like to make announcements that you're looking for a team to run a Celebrate Recovery group and need people to help.

>>> SLIDE 8

3 Celebrate Recovery UK regional representatives

The UK Team of regional reps are here to support and guide you. Get in touch. Visit their Celebrate Recovery meetings. Let them know how they could help you. If there isn't a rep for your area then just ask your nearest one. You can find their details on the website celebraterecovery.co.uk.

Once you have your potential team, you need to **Prepare**.

>>> SLIDE 9

The team needs to familiarise themselves with the programme.

>>> SLIDE 10

Why not attend the Celebrate Recovery meetings of an established group – if they're in travelling distance of you – while you work towards launching your own group? This will familiarise you with the programme and build supportive connections with Celebrate Recovery family, making it easy for you to ask questions and seek ongoing support. At the very least, get to *one* established Celebrate Recovery group meeting. Much of what you read will make sense when you see it in action.

>>> SLIDE 11

Purchase the Celebrate Recovery curriculum – the Leader's Guide and 4 Participant's Guides. You can buy these online direct from Saddleback or from Purpose Driven UK.

>>> SLIDE 12

Read through the Leader's Guide, and note especially these four aspects:

The DNA

All Celebrate Recovery ministries follow the DNA. It's what makes Celebrate Recovery safe, consistent and recognisable. You can find the DNA on the website celebraterecovery.com and in your handout.

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.

A church or organisation may decide to use Celebrate Recovery curriculum and mix it with other materials, or programmes. This is certainly up to their discretion. HOWEVER, they are prohibited from using the Celebrate Recovery name.

Items produced for commercial sale using the Celebrate Recovery name or any part of the Celebrate Recovery curriculums is strictly prohibited. This is a trademark and copyright violation. *(DNA shortened from celebraterecovery.com July 2022)*

The Principles

The whole programme and people's recoveries hang on this process. The principles work!

(See them on the PowerPoint and Handout OR watch the **Video 8: The Eight Principles of Celebrate Recovery**)

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

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.

3. Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.

Happy are the meek

4. Openly examine and confess my faults to God, to myself, and to someone I trust.

Happy are the pure of heart

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

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

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.

The General Meeting Night Format

Your meeting night is the starting point for your whole ministry – everything grows out of this so you need to get this right. Understand why each section is important. More about this in Presentation 3, “The Weekly General Meeting Night”

Your General Meeting Night has three parts:

1. Large Group Time

This includes worship, reading of Celebrate Recovery’s 8 Principles or the 12 Steps with Bible verses, a Celebrate Recovery lesson or testimony, and the Prayer for Serenity

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

This gives people uninterrupted time to reflect on the Principles and their own recovery progress or struggles. These meetings are kept safe by reading and following the ‘Five Small Group Guidelines’ every week. Please note that the Participant’s Guides* are **NOT** used in Open Share Groups at your General Meeting Night.

3. Fellowship Time

A chance to wind down over coffee and get to know others who could become part of their support team.

The 90-day Kick-off Strategy

This includes Saddleback’s suggestions for what needs doing in preparation to start Celebrate Recovery.

>>> SLIDE 13

Prepare your team by working through the four Participant’s Guides together. As you work through the programme yourselves you’ll be in a better position to lead others through the programme – you can’t lead people where you haven’t been yourself. You’ll find clarity about your own recovery journey and be in a better position to write a Celebrate Recovery testimony too.

>>> SLIDE 14

Ask your nearest regional rep for advice on anything big or small (N.B. you are accountable to your church leaders; the UK Team can offer support and guidance.) Between the reps there is a wealth of experience. If they can’t answer your questions immediately, they have access to the International Field Director and the US National Team for clarification.

As you approach your launch date, you’ll need to make detailed preparations. You need to **Plan**.

>>> SLIDE 15

1. Use 'The 90-day Kick-off Strategy' (from the Leader's Guide) as a check list.

>>> SLIDE 16

2. Continue working through the Participant's Guides together

If you aren't sure about anything in the Participant's Guides then ask your regional rep. Principles 4, 5 & 6 can be tough for participants. Perhaps your rep could give some training on these Principles when your team gets to that stage.

>>> SLIDE 17

3. Identify people for key roles.

The minimum team required is two male Open Share Leaders and two female Open Share Leaders. To begin with, you may just have a Ministry Leader/s and Open Share Group Leaders, male and female. If you have a large team you may like to develop Saddleback's model of T.E.A.M with a man and woman in the roles of

T- Training Coach

E- Encourager Coach

A- Ambassador Coach

M- Ministry Leader

Getting the right people in place is key, so it's advisable to discuss this structure with your church leader/s. If people want to serve but haven't got a year of sobriety from their issues, it's not a good idea to give them a leadership role yet – they need to work on their own recovery before taking on a role that gives so much to others. However, they could serve in other ways such as on the welcome team, or refreshments team.

>>> SLIDE 18

4. Your General Meeting Night:

Celebrate Recovery runs each week and must be consistent in order for participants to feel safe. Make sure you're clear about the nitty gritty of the meetings. And don't try to do everything all at once. Start small and build up. Here are just a few things to consider:

Timing – which day of the week will your programme run? What's the meeting start time and finish time?

Venue – where will the Large Group meet? Will the Open Share Groups' spaces be private from others who may use the building?

Welcome – How? Who?

Resource Table – will you have one initially? It should only display Celebrate Recovery information so what will you include?

Worship – how will you run this?

Technology – will you use PowerPoint presentations? DVD testimonies etc?

Offering – will you take offerings or not?

Lessons – who will present them? Discuss this with your church leaders.

Testimonies – you could ask your team to write their testimonies basing them on the Celebrate Recovery principles where possible. Will you read testimonies from the Leader's Guide? You could purchase Celebrate Recovery 'Testimonies To Go' DVDs. Ask people from other Celebrate Recovery groups to come and share.

Bulletin Sheet – will you produce these initially or not?

Refreshments – what will you offer? Before the meeting? At fellowship time after the meeting?

Open Share Group Script – Keep your groups consistent by having a set script to follow. Make sure the script your leaders have includes the five small guidelines to be read every week. Ask what your rep uses.

How will you facilitate the sharing time? – Taking it in turns round the circle or popcorn sharing? See Presentation 3 for more information about this.

››› SLIDE 19

The fifth **P** is for **Publicity**.

Again, 'The 90-day Kick-off Strategy' gives suggestions of what to do.

Initially, most of your participants will come from your church. **Visible Senior Pastor** support will help people see that it is acceptable to be in recovery.

Testimonies in church from your team will help others feel that it's safe to admit to some brokenness in your church. Keep testimonies short and hope-filled. You could use some of the UK videos from the USB flash drive or the UK website or the Celebrate Recovery YouTube channel. Details in the handout, 'Further Help'.

Use the **UK Newsletters** to inform church members about the programme.

It's helpful to have **flyers** available. You could make your own or purchase generic flyers from the UK Director; simply add your own meeting and contact details to them.

When your group has been running for 3 months, let your nearest regional rep know so that your group can be listed on the UK website.

>>> SLIDE 20

In order to be listed, you need to:

- abide by the DNA of CR
- run weekly meetings
- base your General Meeting Night on Saddleback's format of Large Group Time, Open Share Groups and Fellowship Time.
- Offer at least one men's and one women's Open Share Group so that newcomers are welcome any week (N.B. the Participant's Guides are not to be used in Open Share Groups)

>>> SLIDE 21

To build a good Celebrate Recovery ministry it needs to be built on good foundations and so your preparation stage is crucial. Setting up Celebrate Recovery may seem daunting but remember this is God's programme. We can only present the Celebrate Recovery programme as well as we can. It's God who does the healing in people. Celebrate Recovery is a wonderful framework for God to work.

Make sure you go through Presentation 3: 'The Weekly General Meeting Night'. This will go into more detail about the format and structure of Celebrate Recovery meetings.

The handout, 'Further Help' includes websites for purchasing resources and to 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.*