

7 WEEKS

THE WAY



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**Top 10 Tips for Leading
a Small Group 23**

Group Agreement 23

I need a way of
life that keeps
me close to God
and that keeps my
mind aware of his
presence; a way of
life that keeps
me rooted in Jesus'
way of living.

In the next seven weeks together,
we will explore the practices that are
essential as followers of Jesus. Because
to trust Jesus, means precisely to follow
in his way. This is your "playbook" for
living like Jesus.

WEEK 1

SURRENDER-GIVE UP

THE WAY
PLAYBOOK

Kick Off:

Share a time in your life when you gave up something important to you (e.g. control, an object, a relationship, time to focus on sports/hobby) and ended up receiving back more than you expected.

Big Play:

"Your will be done" is the foundational and daily prayer of a disciple.

Key plays:

Romans 7:15

"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do."

Philippians 4:13

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

Luke 22:42

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

Matthew 16:24

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Matthew 10:39

"Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."

Drive:

1. Read Romans 7:15. This passage describes the human condition. Share how you see this at work in your own life.
2. Trying harder isn't the solution to this condition. The solution can be characterized in this great phrase. "I can't; God can; I think I'll let Him." What challenges have you had in trying harder versus "letting Him"?
3. Read Philippians 4:13. We tend to think of surrender as a weak act for weak people,

but the great truth revealed by Jesus, Paul, and countless others is that surrender is the pathway to power. How have you found that to be true?

4. Read Luke 22:42. Jesus demonstrated His humanity when He prayed to avoid the cross, but was willing to endure the pain if it was God's will for him. What does Jesus' willingness to surrender mean to you? What would you rather avoid, but will instead choose to surrender to God's will?
5. Read Matthew 16:24. Jesus makes it crystal clear that to follow Him means you must also deny yourself and take up your cross. How does that play out in your day to day?
6. What area of your life do you find most difficult to surrender to God? Why?
7. Read Matthew 10:39. What is the possible life you may "find" if you were to completely surrender that area?

Extra point:

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10

Huddle:

Pray together the Lord's prayer from Matthew 6: 9-13:

OUR FATHER,
WHO ART IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME,
YOUR KINGDOM COME,
YOUR WILL BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY
BREAD.
AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS,
AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN
OUR DEBTORS.
AND LEAD US NOT INTO
TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM,
AND THE POWER, AND THE
GLORY FOREVER. AMEN.

Practice:

Pray "Your will be done" to God every day for the next week, focusing particularly on the area of your life that you find most difficult to surrender to God. Be attentive for opportunities that God may reveal to you where you can begin to let go and trust God more.

WEEK 2

STUDY-THINK UP

THE WAY
PLAYBOOK

Kick Off:

Share a Bible passage with the group that is particularly significant to you and why/how it has made an impact in your life.

Big Play:

Read the Bible.

Key plays:

2 Timothy 3:14-17

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Philippians 4:8-9

"Finally, brothers and sisters,

whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

Romans 12:1-2

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Psalms 119:11

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Drive:

1. The kind of mind that you cultivate determines the kind of life you live, and the kind of person you become. You, and nobody else, is in charge of what you put into your mind, or is in charge of the quality of the mind you steward. Just like junk food ultimately affects your body, what you feed your mind affects the outcomes of your life. Discuss what you would consider to be the junk food that your mind consumes in today's culture.
 2. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. No one can have a great mind unless they feed it great thoughts, and there is no greater source of great thoughts in human history than the Bible. What does this passage teach you regarding the intended goal of Scripture in our lives?
 3. Read Philippians 4:8-9. Paul's encouragement to the Philippians is to consider whatever is "true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable." What value do you suppose these thoughts might bring to your life if you put into practice what Paul teaches?
 4. Read Romans 12:1-2.
- Paul challenges Roman believers to be transformed by renewing their minds. What is the result when this happens?
 5. What role can the Bible play in helping your thoughts to more readily move in that direction?
 6. Read Psalm 119:11. Not only does memorizing Scripture protect you from sin, it also increases your ability to have your mind renewed. What are the common reasons people give for not memorizing Scripture? Discuss what systems you might utilize to overcome those excuses and commit yourself to consistent memorization.
 7. What other ways might you integrate more Scripture into your daily life to give you a renewed mind?

Extra point:

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:17

Huddle:

Lord, help us to THINK UP by having the peace of Christ guard our minds, by being transformed by the renewing of our minds, by having the same mind in us that was also in Christ Jesus, by having the mind of Christ and setting our minds on things above, by having a mind governed by the Spirit that is life and peace, by being anxious for nothing and being grateful in everything, by loving the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and having His joy in us and our joy complete. Amen.

Practice:

Do a S.O.A.P. meditation on Philippians 4:8-9 this week.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

S (Scripture)

O (Observation)

A (Application)

P (Prayer)

WEEK 3

PRAYER-LOOK UP

THE WAY
PLAYBOOK

Kick Off:

Share a time when you couldn't wait to speak with someone - perhaps a best friend, a sibling, a future spouse, or a parent. What were you feeling?

Big Play:

Prayer improves my conscious contact with God that I might live the 'with-God' life.

Key plays:

John 11:41

"Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

Hebrews 4:14-16

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high

priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Philippians 4:4-7

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Drive:

1. Jesus' life was characterized by prayer. Throughout his life and ministry, we see Him continually and consistently praying. And what was His posture? Read John 11:41. Jesus often looked up physically when he prayed, because in prayer we are living in the elevated vision of God's power, presence and goodness. Discuss the various postures of prayer that we might assume and what that might reveal about our approach.
2. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What kind of approach to prayer does God invite us to, and to what kind of throne? How does that shape your perspective of prayer?
3. Read Philippians 4:4-7 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. In both passages, when are we commanded to pray?
4. Paul begins by stating we should "rejoice always," closely followed by the instruction to pray and give thanks. Discuss the relationship between rejoicing and prayer and thanksgiving.
5. To what extent do your prayers reflect both rejoicing in God and gratitude (thanksgiving) to God?
6. What does Paul describe as an outcome of praying in this manner? Share how has that been true in your own experience.
7. Discuss which, if any, of these excuses occurred to your mind as a reason to avoid prayer:
I don't have time to pray. I don't know how to pray. I tried before and didn't get what I wanted, so I don't think it works. I'm not sure there is a God. I think there is a God, but I don't think he's involved at the level of my little life. My mind wanders when I pray. If I try a formula for prayer, it feels contrived. If I freestyle, it feels confusing. I'm not spiritual enough. I'm too cynical. I'm too tired. I fall asleep when I pray. I'm afraid if I prayed, God would make me change things I don't want to change. Other people seem to hear God when they pray, and I don't hear him. If God already knows everything, my prayers wouldn't change anything, so I don't know why I should bother. I did something bad last night, so I'm in spiritual timeout today. I'm too extroverted. I'm too

introverted.

8. What adjustment in your current attitude would help strengthen the connection that you have with God through prayer?
9. What are some of the benefits of setting a specific time and place for prayer? If you already have a time and place set aside for prayer, share with your group how this has helped your prayer life.

Extra point:

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

Practice:

Pray a different Psalm each day this week. If you find a Psalm that isn’t particularly relevant to where you are in life, pray it on behalf of someone else. For example, if you read a lament Psalm but it doesn’t connect with you right now, think of someone who is going through a hard time and pray it on their behalf.

Huddle:

Close your group time by praying Psalm 23 aloud together.

“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, I LACK NOTHING. HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES, HE LEADS ME BESIDE QUIET WATERS, HE REFRESHES MY SOUL. HE GUIDES ME ALONG THE RIGHT PATHS FOR HIS NAME’S SAKE. EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE DARKEST VALLEY, I WILL FEAR NO EVIL, FOR YOU ARE WITH ME; YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME. YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES. YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL; MY CUP OVERFLOWS SURELY YOUR GOODNESS AND LOVE WILL FOLLOW ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD FOREVER.”



WEEK 4

COMMUNITY-LOVE IN

THE WAY
PLAYBOOK

Kick Off:

Where is one place that you feel like you belong? What makes you feel that way?

Big Play:

As part of God's Church, we are called to commit to a shared life through worship, learning, praying, confessing, sharing and serving with other disciples. Do life together!

Key plays:

Acts 2:42-47

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and

ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

1 John 1:7

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

Drive:

1. Read Acts 2:42-47. Discuss each of the characteristics that distinguished the early church. In what ways do you see those things being carried out by our local body of believers? By your small group?

2. In what areas might your group engage in order to model the authentic community the early church displayed?
3. Authentic community involves having spiritual companions, that is, one or two people who know and care for everything about your soul. Discuss how that plays out in your life, whether you have those kind of companions or need to find those kind of people to walk with.
4. Read John 13:34-35. Why do you suppose that loving one another is the distinguishing identifier of being Jesus's disciple? What does this kind of loving community show the world?
5. How does being in fellowship with imperfect, flawed individuals both challenge and give you opportunity to love as Jesus loves?
6. Read 1 John 1:7. How does walking in the light enable authentic fellowship?

Extra point:

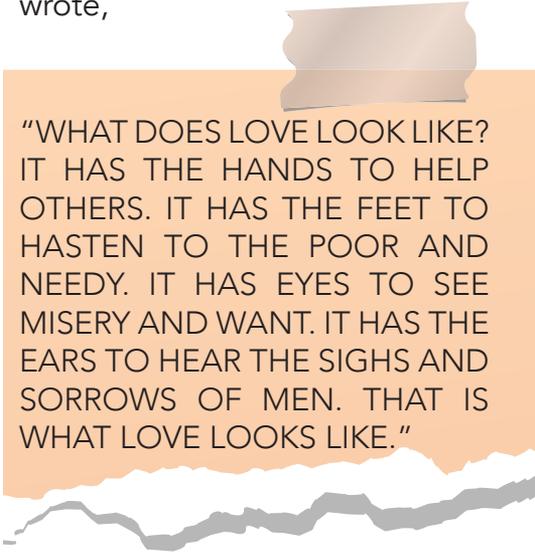
"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

Huddle:

Invite each person in the group to pray for the person sitting on his/her right. Have the person who goes last include a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of community that you have as a group.

Practice:

Augustine, a Christian theologian from the 5th century, wrote,



"WHAT DOES LOVE LOOK LIKE? IT HAS THE HANDS TO HELP OTHERS. IT HAS THE FEET TO HASTEN TO THE POOR AND NEEDY. IT HAS EYES TO SEE MISERY AND WANT. IT HAS THE EARS TO HEAR THE SIGHS AND SORROWS OF MEN. THAT IS WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE."

Consider the senses mentioned in this quote: touch, see and hear. Which of these senses do you best express love through and how might you elevate that sense to demonstrate love to someone this week?

WEEK 3

ACCOUNTABILITY-LEAN INTO

THE WAY
PLAYBOOK

Kick Off:

Whom do you turn to in times of trouble? Why?

Big Play:

As a follower of Christ, I am called to enter into a relationship with those who will call me to live up to my values and commitments.

Key plays:

1 Timothy 4:8-9

"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance."

Hebrews 10:24-25

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

James 5:19-20

"My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins."

Galatians 6:1-2

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Drive:

1. Spiritual accountability is when you invite another person to help you be accountable to your commitments, values, and those things you want to live up to. Declaring your key commitments to another person in a concrete way

and courageously inviting their honest feedback into your life is indispensable for your spiritual growth and the well-being of our community. Read 1 Timothy 4:8-9. Paul compares physical training with spiritual training, and much like having a trainer to help hold you accountable to your physical training, discuss practical ways in which a spiritual “trainer” might help hold you accountable to living the Jesus way.

2. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What comes to mind when you hear the word “spur”? Why do you think the writer of Hebrews chose a provocative word like “spur?”
3. What are daily/regular actions you can take to spur one another toward love and good deeds?
4. How have you experienced encouragement by meeting with other Christians regularly? How is it different when you do not have that regular interaction?
5. “The Day” is short for “The Day of the Lord” or the

imminent return of Christ. What sense of urgency do you feel related to encouraging other believers and why?

6. Read James 5:19-20. When has someone turned you from the error of your ways? How might you be that person to someone else?
7. Read Galatians 6:1-2. What is the responsibility of the community to someone caught in sin? What does it look like to “restore someone gently”?
8. How does carrying each other’s burdens fulfill the law of Christ? (John 13:34-35)
9. How might this small group help you in your accountability to God?

Extra point:

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

WEEK 6

CONFESSION-LOOK IN

THE WAY
PLAYBOOK

Kick Off:

When is the last time you “told on yourself”?

Big Play:

To regularly engage in self-examination; confession to God, myself and another; and to make amends to those I’ve harmed, is essential for my spiritual health.

Key plays:

Luke 18:9-14

“To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.” But the tax collector stood at a distance.

He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

James 5:16

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

Proverbs 28:13

“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

Drive:

1. Read Luke 18:9-14. Verse 9 of this passage gives some insight into the audience to whom Jesus shared this parable. Discuss their posture, and the message Jesus was seeking to get into their hearts.
2. What “good things” do you do that might cause you to become puffed up like the Pharisee, if not kept in check?
3. What role might confession and self examination play in keeping your heart from an attitude like the Pharisee’s?
4. Read 1 John 1:9. Discuss how you best put this practice of confession into your own life and the challenges you face in doing so.
5. Read James 5:16. How do confession, prayer and healing work together according to James?
6. Read Proverbs 28:13. Discuss the tension between concealing and confessing. Think about the times that you have concealed your sin. What attitudes or emotions are at work in the midst of your concealment? How might identifying and dealing with those emotions help you move toward confession?
7. Share a positive situation

where you confessed to God and another person and mercy and healing resulted.

Extra point:

“If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

Huddle:

Have someone read Psalm 32 aloud as a prayer for the group: Loving God, Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin you do not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are our hiding place; you will protect us from trouble and surround us with songs of deliverance. Amen

Practice:

Take the following moral inventory this week, confessing the areas that come to light, and making amends with others when possible.

RESENTMENTS:

- Toward whom am I angry?
- Why am I angry?
- How does the anger show up in my life?
- Where am I to blame?

FEAR:

- What am I afraid of?
- Why am I afraid?
- How does the fear show up in my life?
- What do I normally do to numb the fear?

HARM/HURT:

- Who have I harmed?
- What did I do (or fail to do)?
- What motivated my action?
- What should I have done instead?

SEXUAL CONDUCT:

- Who did I not honor?
- What did I do (or fail to do)?
- What is the exact nature of my wrongs?
- What should I have done instead?



WEEK 7

EVERYDAY TRIALS-LIVE OUT

THE WAY
PLAYBOOK

Kick Off:

What are the biggest challenges that you face day to day at work or at home?

Big Play:

Patiently endure problems.

Key plays:

James 1:2-4

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

1 Peter 4:12-13

"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."

Colossians 3:23-24

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

1 Peter 1:6-7

"In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Drive:

1. The challenges of everyday life (large and small) can become places where you meet God and allow him to grow your patience, strength, and joy. Do you normally view life's trials as a disruption or an opportunity to grow spiritually in some way?
2. Read James 1:2-4. According to James, why are trials a cause for joy?
3. A paraphrase to this passage might be "When something bad is happening to you something good can be happening in you." How have you found that to be true?
4. Read 1 Peter 4:12-13. What does this passage tell you about the trials you face?
5. We often think these passages apply to the major trials we face in life, but what about the small everyday kind of trials? How might they be cause for joy and an opportunity for your faith to be tested?
6. What does it mean to be "mature and complete, not lacking anything"?
7. How might perseverance help bring this about?
8. Share a trial (big or small) you've endured that helped you grow in your faith, and how that came about.
9. Many trials we face in life stem from our work. What hinders you from an awareness of God's presence in your office/work/home?
10. Read Colossians 3:23-24. Think about a current problem in your workplace. How could God use this for your spiritual growth?
11. Read 1 Peter 1:6-7 and 2 Corinthians 4:17-18. How do these passages bring perspective to the trials you face from day to day?

Extra point:

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4

Huddle:

Invite everyone in the group to spend a couple minutes in silence to think about the everyday trials that they faced this week. Where was God in those moments?

Close your time together by having one person pray these words for the group:

Loving and faithful God, thank you for the many ways in which you are always at work around us and in us. Give us ears to hear and eyes to see where you are each and every moment so that we consider it pure joy when we face trials, because we know that the testing of our faith produces perseverance. We must let perseverance finish its work so that we may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. Amen.

Practice:

Identify one step that you can take in an area of your life where you find it challenging to be aware of God's presence and continuing work.

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attendee will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

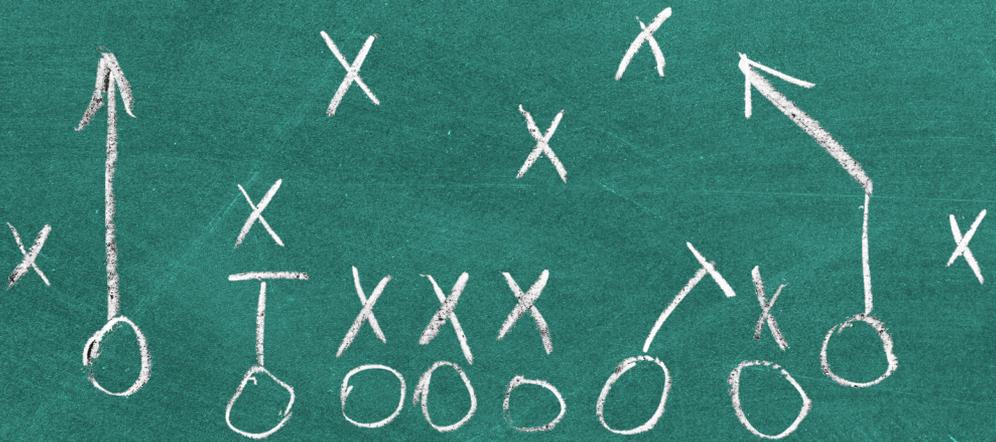
OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/meal times _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?

Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?



SUNNYBROOK
community church

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