



LEADING YOUR GROUP BETWEEN MEETINGS

Start in group setting a tone of honesty and humility. Don't take yourself too seriously. Be honest when you have had a tough week and be quick to help the group move from seeing the glass half empty to seeing it half full. Keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus changes everything!

Set up a consistent communication method for the group to be in touch between meetings. Ideally make it interactive and not one-way. If you as the leader are the only one who can communicate with your group, you will limit the ownership of the group. There is a myriad of apps that make this simple – ask around for what people use and then do it! (WhatsApp, GroupMe, YouVersion, etc...)

Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone. If you hesitate to reach out to one person in your group because you know you can't do it for everyone, reach out. Reach out because if you had time, you would do it for everyone. Be wise to not subtly play favorites, but it is okay to be honest with yourself and the group that you care, and some weeks or months are busier than others.

Create experiences outside of your normal group time. Serve together, meet for lunch after church, attend a kid's sporting event, show up at a park, or host a BBQ. You can do this as the leader and encourage others in the group to do the same.

Talk about Jesus in normal terms. These are *spiritual friendships*, but that doesn't mean it has to be weird. Using normal language in normal rhythms of life, prayer, expressing fears, pointing to hope in Jesus, and laughing is integrating Jesus conversations into everyday life. These don't have to be your best friends, but a season of intentional investment may have an eternal impact.

Speak life into others. Too many of our weeks are filled with comparison and negativity. Speak honor, value, and truth into one another's lives.

Relationships are like bank accounts. They don't just happen; they require regular intentional deposits. Start from the first day making it your goal to learn names and foster interpersonal relationships in your group. Use group texting, mid-week follow-up on prayer requests, cards, sitting together for the Sunday Worship service, serving in another ministry together, getting together as families, or other natural relational avenues.