

SMALL GROUP FAQS!

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WHAT DO I DO IF NOBODY SHOWS UP TO MY SMALL GROUP?

Don't get discouraged. Attendance can take time to build. Reach out to those who signed up with a friendly message, pray for your group, and continue showing up consistently. Ask your friends, coworkers, family, etc. to join your group. People in your small group do NOT have to be members of the church and your small group can create an opportunity to invite them to church.

WHERE ARE SOME GOOD COMMUNITY PLACES TO MEET?

2

Choose places that are comfortable, accessible, and encourage conversation. Some great options include:

- **Coffee shops**
- **Parks**
- **Homes or apartment clubhouses**
- **Community centers**
- **Restaurants with outdoor seating**

Pick a location where people can relax and easily connect.

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WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE MY SMALL GROUP ABOUT?

Start with something you're passionate about or already enjoy.

Your group could center around:

- A book of the Bible
- Prayer
- Sunday sermon discussion

Remember, relationships are more important than having the perfect topic.

HOW DO I HANDLE THE PERSON WHO TALKS TOO MUCH?

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Gently guide the conversation by thanking them for sharing and inviting others in.

Try saying:

"That's a great thought. I'd love to hear what someone else thinks too."

If it becomes a consistent issue, have a kind, private conversation after group.

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HOW DO I DRAW OUT THE QUIET MEMBER AND GET THEM TO ENGAGE?

Don't put them on the spot, but create opportunities for them to participate.

You might ask:

"What are your thoughts?"

"Has anyone had a similar experience?"

Celebrate even small contributions and remember that some people need time before opening up.

HOW DO I FOSTER A SAFE, VULNERABLE ENVIRONMENT?

6

People are vulnerable when they know they're accepted.

Create safety by:

- **Listening without judgment.**
- **Opening up and being honest about your own struggles.**
- **Showing grace and empathy.**
- **Avoiding gossip or giving quick fixes for problems.**

Leaders set the tone through being genuine and showing authenticity.

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HOW DO I ENGAGE WITH COMPLETE STRANGERS?

**Start simple.
Ask questions like:**

“How did you hear about the group?”

“What do you enjoy doing outside of work?”

“What’s something good that’s happened this week?”

Learn names, remember details, and help people feel noticed before trying to go deeper. Search for commonality and grow from there.

HOW DO I PREPARE EFFECTIVELY?

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Preparation doesn’t have to be complicated.

Before each meeting:

- **Pray for and with your group.**
- **Read the discussion material ahead of time.**
- **Prepare 3–5 discussion questions.**
- **Think through how you’ll start and end the meeting.**
- **Leave room for the Holy Spirit to guide the conversation.**

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WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN THE DISCUSSION GETS OFF-TOPIC?

It's normal for conversations to wander occasionally.

When needed, kindly redirect by saying:

"That's a good conversation. Let's come back to today's question so we can make sure everyone has a chance to share."

It's okay to revisit off-topic discussions after the meeting if people want to continue.

NOTE:

Your role isn't to have all the answers—it's to create a welcoming space where people can encounter God, build authentic relationships, and grow together in their faith. The best small group leaders show consistency, love, and genuine care over leading a perfect discussion.