

# Tips for 1<sup>st</sup> Small Group Meeting(s)

## 1. Goals of the First Meeting

### a. Build **Relationships!!!**

Get to know each other. You as the point person will want to create a vision for the group based on the needs that you perceive from your time building relationships.

### b. Decide what you may want to study together.

## 2. Before the Meeting: Pray, Pray, Pray!

**Pray** that God would help you all understand one another so that you can grow together!!

## 3. During the Meeting: **Ideas**

### a. You can do some **basic get-to-know-you questions**. Be creative and break the ice. Ideas:

- Have everyone introduce themselves in a creative way
- Instead of you asking the questions, take 15 minutes and have everyone write down a question that they are interested in knowing about others in the group. Then, allow them to ask another group member (or turn in all the questions and draw 1 question at a time from a hat and have various individuals answer the question).
- Toilet paper square game: Pass around a roll of toilet paper and have everyone rip some off the roll. Then you will go around and have them share 1 thing about themselves for each square that they took.
- M&M game: Pass around a bowl of M&M's having everyone take some. Similar to the toilet paper game, they will share something about themselves for each M&M that they took. Only this time, each color of M&M is a different category. For instance, green M&M's are something about their family, blue for a dream or goal they have, red is childhood memories, yellow is spiritual life, brown for hobbies/activities, orange for other relationships. You can make the colors stand for anything you wish to know about them. You may want to set a time limit since you may get some people who take really big handfuls ☺
- Any icebreaker game (remember to be sensitive, not everyone is an extrovert).

### b. Share your **personal testimony** everyone as a way for the group to get to know you a little better and also to model how to do a personal testimony. It would be great if everyone could share their own testimony sometime!

- c. Direct the focus on what the group would like to get out of their small group experience:
  - Why did you want to be in a growth group? Have you been in something like this before? If yes, what was the experience like? What are you excited about for this group?
  - What would you like to get out of the group? What would make the group a success? What would make it a failure?
  - What can we study together? How can we encourage one another in our personal walks with God and in our outreach?
  
- d. Discuss the **details**.
  - Talk about commitment to coming and how that will help the experience be a positive one. If you have a consistent group, it will help build trust, get to know one another, and develop community. How will you have commitment and accountability to one another?
  
  - Discuss what day & time you will be meeting, the place, the length of the study (1 or 1 ½ hours), will there be treats? Who wants to bring the treats? Do they want to hang out outside of the group? If so, you may want to plan a social get together sometime during the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 weeks.
  
  - **Get everyone's email and phone number.** Tell them you will write it out and then make a copy for everyone.

#### 4. After the Meeting

- **Follow-up all** of your group members with a call, email or personal visit thanking them for coming and telling them you are excited about seeing them next week. Remind them about the time and place your group will be meeting.