

First Days as a Small Group Leader



PHASE OF SMALL GROUP:

Your group is brand new and as a result morale is high even though people don't know each other. In this phase, relationship building is priority.

Ideas for Your First Weeks

First Week – Group Formation Meeting

Social time to connect and begin to get to know each other. Try some informal icebreakers. Discuss with group what they might want out of the group. Need to decide where group meets next week.

Second Week – Dinner/Potluck and Get to Know Each Other

Again, primarily a social time. As part of this relationship building phase, members should be asked to share their Life Story over the next few weeks. Share your story with the group – this will help them get to know you and it will give them a model to base their story on.

Third Week – Develop a Covenant

Work as a group to communicate what is important and what will bind you as a group. Refer to “Developing a Covenant” resource. This will also help you to choose direction of future studies.

Fourth Week – Study

Do a short study – 6 weeks or less. Finishing a study is reinforcing for the group and helps you know what to do in the next study. Focus on a study that builds community and is relationally intensive, avoid controversial or heavy topics to begin with.

The Challenge to your Small Group Members...

One of the greatest temptations when joining a new community is to hold back and wait for someone else to make the first move. Think about what this community would be like if we were all to wait for the other person to reach out first. What would it be like if everyone was to hold back, stay silent, avoid commitment, and avoid caring? Our challenge as we begin this journey together as a community is to be proactive in caring for one another, growing together spiritually, and impacting the world around us for Christ. Our reward will be seeing this happen.

Don't **wait** for community to happen,
Make community happen!