



Small Group Guidelines

1. Confidentiality- What I hear and see in the group will stay in the group.
2. Authenticity and Transparency- I will be as open with my life as I can be at the time. When I share, I will speak only of my struggles and sins, not those of my spouse, or others.
3. Love- I will affirm the others in the group by loving them and praying that God will continue to transform each one of us into His likeness.
4. If I ask the group to hold me accountable for specific areas of my life. With my permission, others can ask me about the goals I set regarding God, my family, my personal life. I expect you to lovingly not "let me off the hook." On the basis of Proverbs 27:17, I ask the group to please share with me the areas in my life that do not reflect Jesus, because I desire to grow in personal holiness. We must remember to speak in love and with grace.
5. Encouragement- I understand that every person in this group is at a different point in their journey with the Lord. I will accept each one as they are, but will encourage each one to progress in becoming more like Christ.
6. Commitment- Coming to bible study and doing my lessons will have high priority in my schedule. I will do my best to have my homework completed when I come to group, and even when I fall short, I will still come because I have so much to learn from others.
7. Participation- I will do my part to keep the discussion centered on biblical truth and the lesson we are working on. I will contribute to the discussion without dominating. I will be sensitive in allowing the others to share equally as we grow together.

How to learn most effectively through our group discussion

1. Prepare the lesson. Study the Word and write answers to each question. Pray about its application in your life. Take any action which the Lord lays on your heart. Be willing to share with the group what you have learned and listen just as intently to others as you want them to listen to you.
 2. For the shy and quiet person. Ask God to give you freedom in being able to share what you have learned. The Lord may want to use you to touch another person's life, but He can't if you keep silent.
 3. For the talkative person. You often have lots to say but limit yourself and ask God to help you be sensitive to others in your group. Try to work at sharing to the point; short and concise statements. The others may have things valuable for you to hear as well. Encourage those quiet ones and let them know you care about what they have to share.
 4. Lastly, prepare for the discussion time by praying about it. Pray for your group leaders, pray for others in your group and pray for yourself that you will learn and change and help others to do the same. Pray that above all God would be glorified in our study time together.
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