

## **Small Group Leaders Guide**

### **Ice Breakers & Get-to-Knows**

#### **Preface:**

This document is simply a guide to aid you as a Small Group leader in facilitating discussion in your group. Nothing in this guide is a rule or set in stone. Each group must be led by the Spirit of God and must be able to adjust as His Spirit leads. However, that does not alleviate the responsibility for the leader to come to every meeting with a well thought out and prepared plan and message. Always remember, as leaders we are showing and teaching what God has shown and taught us.

#### **KEY INSIGHT:**

When it comes to open, honest dialogue, the group will rise to the level of the leader. The more open and honest we as leaders are about ourselves, our sin, our walk with God, etc., the more the rest of the group will be encouraged to share openly as well.

Also, it cannot be over-emphasized the importance of listening and discovering new things about each other. The leader must model good listening skills.

#### **The Guide:**

Below are some examples of questions, games, activities, etc. that can be used to develop and facilitate dialogue within the group. This is in no way a comprehensive list. See this list as a thought provoking list and tailor the questions, activities, etc. to your specific group and study. As you lead your group, always be aware of the depth of the bond and fellowship as that will play in to the questions asked and activities. For example, you do not want to start the second group meeting with the question asking, "What is the deepest sin in your life right now?" It takes time to build trust within the group to have that kind of open and honest dialog.

NOTE: A **First Meeting Guide** is a separate Guide available on the website.

**Activities for Introductions:**

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Introduce yourself and give some or all of the following information: Family situation, background, where you grew up, occupation, school affiliation, hobbies, interests, favorite Bible verse/passage, etc. Then go around the group and have everyone do the same thing.

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Have people pair up and discover as much information as they can about each other in three minutes (full name, where they are from, major/job, favorite class or aspect of job, hobbies/interests, family facts). Then, the pairs introduce each other to the rest of group using all the information they learned.

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The group decides among themselves what information they would like to find out about the members of the group (major, job, classes, hobbies, interests, birth place, etc.). Each member introduces herself according to the demographics chosen by the group.

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## **Discussion Questions: (ordered by depth)**

### **Relationship Building Questions:**

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#### **Beginning Level of Relationship Building:**

What has God been teaching you recently?

Describe an answer to prayer. Give a recent example.

When are you the happiest?

What do you love to do?

What's one talent or skill that you possess?

Where would you like to be five years from now? What would you be doing? What job would you have?

What do you like to do with your free time?

If you knew you could not fail, what are two things that you would like to do or accomplish in the next ten years?

What are two good qualities your parents instilled in you?

On what food are you most likely to lose restraint? Why?

Name two people (except Jesus, parents) who have influenced your life and tell how they impacted you.

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#### **Middle Level of Relationship Building:**

Describe an important decision you've made in the last year.

Describe ways in which you see yourself changing.

Describe or name some things you worry about.

What are four of your most valuable possessions? What makes them valuable to you?

Who has had the most significant influence on your life? Describe how his/her influence affected you.

With which person in your life can you be most honest and why?

Describe two major turning points in your life.

How do you feel about your relationship with God at the present time?

How does being in fellowship with other Christians impact your life? What experiences with Christian fellowship have you had?

What is one thing in your Christian life that you would like to improve this year?

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#### **Deeper Level of Relationship Building:**

If someone were to ask you what's important in your life, what would you say? If that same person were to take a look at the way you live, do you think he'd be able to spot those things you consider important?

What spiritual disciplines do you practice? What are the strengths and weaknesses in your personal use of spiritual disciplines? Where would you like to grow in this area? What can help you? What hinders you?

What do you see as the purpose of your life at this time? Do you feel that you are, to some degree, accomplishing this purpose? Why or why not?

What has been a difficult experience in your life? In detail, describe how God worked through that experience.