

Leaders Notes/Agenda- 1st Meeting

Make Your First Meeting Great

Goals of the First Meeting

- Begin to know members
- Clarify your group's direction/expectations/commitments using the covenant
- Briefly discuss the sermon topic (if there is time)
- Pray for the building of relationships and spiritual growth of the group

Items Needed for the First Meeting

- Dinner/dessert plans decided
- Connect Group covenants- individual covenants to handout and a group covenant for everyone to sign
- Nametags (host should write them out ahead of time)
- Childcare plan for the first night

3 Essential Parts of Your First Meeting

#1 Welcome, mingle and talk while you eat

- **Leadership tip-** Studies show that the first 7 seconds a person spends in a room can make or break the remainder of their experience in that room.
 - People greeted when they arrive
 - Drinks available when people arrive
 - Upbeat music playing
 - House cleaned, phone off if possible

#2 Think through the uniqueness of your first group discussion- **GOING OVER THE COVENANT IS CRUCIAL**

- Let people know your meeting is going to start in about 5 minutes
- Why it is unique- getting to know each other, setting expectations

a) Sharing

- Refer to homework- Take time to do a few of the getting to know you questions
- Sharing guidelines- Explain the purpose of sharing exercises: Getting to know one another casually in new groups or reacquainting with each other (continuing groups)
- Note to returning leaders- feel free to adapt the sharing exercises based on the number of new members. All groups are encouraged to do some of the getting to know me questions.

b) **THE COVENANT- SET THE EXPECTATIONS AND VISION**

- *Everything rises and falls on how this is communicated*
- Distribute the Covenant
- Go over the Covenant (see Leader's Guide)
- **MAKE PLANS FOR YOUR SOCIAL**

c) Prayer

For New groups... Introduce the idea of topical prayer

- Everyone participates
- Brief, one topic at a time
- Pray as many times as you want
- Ask your host to close in a brief prayer dedicating the next quarter to God

For Continuing groups...

- You are encouraged to do something (prayer booklet or sheet) that will help people record their prayer requests and answers to prayer during the quarter

#3 Know that your dessert conversations are just as important as your meeting discussions

- **Leadership tip-** Never underestimate the significance of the time after the meeting. It is key to connect with people and find out more what people are all about.