



# **HUDDLE GUIDE**

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## INTRODUCTION TO HUDDLES

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When we started Church at Cane Bay, we desired to see our people find a real place of growth and discipleship in our church.

Honestly, we weren't really sure what that looked like. Most discipleship like this happens naturally, from a few committed believers who desire to see others grow firmly in their faith. Because we are all called to discipleship, we wanted to be able to see everyone inside of our church be able to participate in a process like this for their growth and the growth of others.

Our past experience with a discipleship system that was focused on scripture, prayer, and accountability was limited. For us, these three things were vital to the life and growth of a believer, but it was an area that the church was lacking in.

So we began to do research to see what was out there. This was when we stumbled across the idea of groups focused on Scripture study together using the SOAP method in the book Divine Mentor by Wayne Cordeiro. It seemed like a perfect fit for our church in helping our people to learn to hear from God for themselves as they dig into God's word.

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## WHAT IS A HUDDLE?

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A Huddle is a group of two or three people that get together weekly to deeply study the bible, pray for each other, and provide accountability to help each other live in obedience to God.

At Church at Cane Bay, we desire for everyone to be plugged in to three environments inside of our church. We believe in the importance of large worship gatherings on Sunday mornings, and smaller missional communities for mission and community that take place throughout the week. We also, however, realize the need for even smaller groups that will provide discipleship for each of our lives. We need to be discipled and we need to disciple others.

We each need a few people in our life that can help us as we seek to live life according to Scripture. That's the purpose of a Huddle. We all need to learn how to read and apply the bible for ourselves, and there is no better context for that than a huddle. With the blessing of others investing in us, as well as the joy of investing in others, a huddle is a wonderful environment that teaches us the joy of applying God's word and the blessing of communicating with Him in prayer.

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## WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

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Here is a general breakdown of what could happen during your time spent together. You may spend more time in one area than another, but this is an approximate breakdown.

### 1 Hour Session -

#### **15 MINUTES**

Read through passage of Scripture. Typically this will be one chapter out of a book of the Bible.

#### **15 MINUTES**

Take time to journal through that passage using the SOAP method.

#### **15 MINUTES**

Discuss your journal and insights, and share how it impacts your life.

#### **15 MINUTES**

Provide accountability using our disciple questions to help each other live in obedience to God. Pray together for personal and intimate needs of individuals and families.

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## WHY HUDDLE?

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We were not meant to do this on our own. God specifically designed us to live and work in the context of biblical community.

Truthfully, we learn best how to do anything by gathering with people who know how to do that thing and do it well. If we desired to become an auto mechanic, we could read all the books out there, but nothing would beat the experience of pulling up the hood of a car with someone who spends time inside of cars each day.

When it comes to our relationship with Jesus, there isn't much of a difference. We can try to learn what it means to follow Jesus by ourself by reading the bible and other books, and approaching God in prayer. Those are good, but our experience is even greater when we spend time with someone who does those things daily and learn from them how to get the most benefit out of it. Yes, our goal is to learn to hear from God by ourselves, and learning that in the context of community helps us learn and protects us from error.

We also NEED encouragement and challenge in our life. God did not design us to experience life and its challenges alone. We aren't equipped for that. We each have different gifts for a reason, so that we can exercise them as a part of a body where others are weak (Check out Romans 12: 3 - 8 for more info on that). We were designed to live and work in community, and that's how we best learn to follow Christ.

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## HOW DO I GET STARTED?

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Getting started isn't difficult. You just need to find one or two other people of the same gender that are willing to open up God's word with you.

But what are the practical details to get moving? We frequently say that a huddle can happen anytime, anywhere, and with anyone.

### **ANYTIME**

A huddle can happen anytime that fits into your normal routine of life. This really depends on you. You could meet early in the morning before work, or catchup on you way home from work. It could happen during your lunch hour. Maybe the easiest time for you is at your house after the kids go to bed. Whatever works best for you is great for your huddle.

### **ANYWHERE**

A huddle can happen anywhere that provides an environment to talk easily. You will want to meet in a place that allows for easy conversation that gives you enough room to spread around a table and journal through a passage of Scripture. It really comes down to convenience. What is a place that is convenient for all of your members to meet?

### **ANYONE**

A huddle can include anyone. Sure it could be someone from our church, but it doesn't have to be. They could could go to any church, or even no church at all. This is a great opportunity to engage your lost friends, neighbors, and co-workers with the gospel of Jesus. The most important thing is that you find someone and open God's word together.

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## WHY SCRIPTURE?

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At Church at Cane Bay, we firmly believe that the bible is God's word, that it is completely true, and that it is completely relevant and applicable to our lives today.

*2 Timothy 3: 16 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

By God's word

**WE ARE TAUGHT** - We learn who He is and what He's called us to do.

**WE ARE EXPOSED** - We learn about the sinful nature that is in us.

**WE ARE CORRECTED** - We learn to confess our sin and sin less.

**WE ARE TRAINED** - We learn to grow daily by God's grace.

**WE ARE GROWING** - We learn to imitate Jesus in how we live.

**WE ARE EQUIPPED** - God equips us to live on His mission.

The bible is vital to our growth as a follower of Jesus. It is the very word of God, given to us that we can know Him, believe Him, trust Him, and follow Him. In Scripture, we experience the truth of the sacrifice of Jesus that was made for God's glory and our salvation. We understand the love of God for us and His desire to be in relationship with us. We have the blessing of God's word so that we can grow in Him and be equipped for all that He has called us to do.

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## WHAT IS SOAP?

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SOAP is a journaling method that we use to study God's word deeply and find application in it for our lives.

A few years ago, we decided that we wanted to try and find an easy way to teach people how to spend time in the Bible. It needed to be something that we could use inside of our discipleship groups (huddles). It needed to be very simple. It needed to be re-produceable. The Divine Mentor by Wayne Cordeiro met these needs. Wayne came up with this method called the SOAP method. It's easy to teach, easy to learn, and something that you can do in the context of a group.

### THE DIVINE MENTOR

Here's the basic premise for The Divine Mentor: Every one of us desires to have a mentor in our life. This is someone to walk by us, coach us, and disciple us. There is good news! Every life can be mentored by someone in the Bible. Moses, David, Job, Mary, Rebecca, Paul, Peter, and Jesus are all right there ready to divinely mentor you!

We desire to see people using this method of journaling daily in their personal time with the Lord. It's simple, but produces real, practical application for the one using it. God desires to speak to us through His word daily, and SOAP is a wonderful way to hear from Him.

And that's not all - You can also mutually mentor someone by being in a Huddle.

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## HOW DO I SOAP?

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SOAP is the method we use to journal in our huddles. It's also what we encourage our partners to use in their daily quiet time. It's a simple and easy process to get the most out of studying God's word.

It's simple. Just take out your journal and start by working through a passage or chapter of Scripture.

### **SCRIPTURE**

As you have read through your passage of Scripture, write down the text of the one verse that really stuck out to you for whatever reason. Maybe it was memorable, or maybe you didn't understand what was being said. It's the verse that, for some reason, stood out to you.

### **OBSERVATION**

What do you think the author is saying in the text? Write it down. Think about each part of the verse and write down your observations about what is being said in the text. Don't apply yet!

### **APPLICATION**

Based on your observations, how will you be able to apply this to your life? This is a really important step. Scripture does us little good unless we put it into practice. How does your life need to change based on what you've read in this verse?

### **PRAYER**

Write down a short prayer to the Lord asking for His help in putting His word into practice each day.

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## WHAT DOES SOAP LOOK LIKE?

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Here's an example -

- S - James 1: 19 - Know this, my beloved brothers, let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.
- O - We know that James is speaking to Christians because he specifically calls them 'brothers'. He desires to see that we begin to focus on listening. He must be seeing, as we see today, that many are quick to jump in to try and make a point before they even understand what is going on in a situation. James desires to see people begin to listen and think before they react in a situation, specifically before they react in anger.
- A - This is something that I often see in my life. I will react to things that happen in life even before I completely understand what is going on. This typically leads to really bad results in the situation. Sometimes this happens in conversations, and sometimes it happens in the midst of a conversation on social media. I don't want to be a person that's known for anger or over-reacting to a situation. James' advice is very valuable for me as I need to learn how to listen better and think through my reactions before I hastily respond in any given situation.
- P - God, give me grace and patience to learn to be more thoughtful in the way that I respond daily, so that I'm given to patience over anger.

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## WHY ACCOUNTABILITY?

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We all need people speaking into the deeper parts of our lives, whether it's providing encouragement where we need it or challenging us on our sin or blindspots.

*Proverbs 27:17 - As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*

Scripture lets us know the importance of having people in our lives that we feel free to talk openly about our struggles. For our own growth, we need the opportunity to be honest and vulnerable with just a few people. We believe this happens best in the context of a huddle through accountability.

This accountability breaks down into 3 parts:

Are you **GROWING**?

We believe that a disciple of Jesus will be growing in scripture, prayer, and accountability.

Are you **GIVING**?

A disciple of Jesus will also be giving generously of their time, talent, and treasure.

Are you **GOING**?

Not only will a disciple of Jesus grow and give, but they will also go with the gospel personally, locally, and globally.

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## HOW DO WE DO ACCOUNTABILITY?

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As a part of our DISCIPLE process, we have created questions to ask in a huddle that help guide the discussion of accountability.

It isn't necessary to ask every question every week because they are intended for personal growth. Focus in one area and have a conversation about how the Lord is growing/challenging you in that area. Be bold and encouraging. Allow these questions to start a challenging conversation.

### **GROW**

Scripture - How are you growing in your study of God's Word?

Prayer - How are you growing in communication with the Father?

Accountability - How are you growing through the challenges and encouragements of other believers?

### **GIVE**

Time - How are you giving a portion of your time to serve Jesus?

Talent - How are you giving of your specific abilities to serve Jesus?

Treasure - How are you giving of your financial blessing to serve Jesus?

### **GO**

Personal - How are you going with the Gospel to your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers?

Local - How are you going with the Gospel to your community?

Global - How are you going with the Gospel to those around the world?

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## WHY PRAYER?

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Open communication with those in your huddle is vitally important, but it's even more important to have consistent communication with the Lord.

*James 5: 16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

Scripture encourages us to pray for each other as we confess sin to each other. But why is prayer so important?

### **IT SAYS WE DEPEND ON GOD**

As our good father, we depend on God for our salvation, growth, and the many blessings that He provides to us. Prayer provides action to our dependence on God.

### **IT DEEPENS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

God desires to be in relationship with His children. Relationships start with conversation and prayer is one of our primary means of communication with the Lord.

### **IT ALLOWS US TO BE INVOLVED IN GOD'S WORK**

Prayer provides us with the opportunity to be involved in the work of the Kingdom as we pray for His Kingdom to come in our lives and our communities.

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## **HOW DO WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER?**

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We desire to see that your time spent praying in Huddle will draw you closer to Jesus, as He makes you look more like Him.

In a huddle, you can pray for everyone as the leader, or if you have time, have one person pray for another person, allowing everyone to have someone pray specifically for them. Using the Lord's prayer as a model, you can pray using the method that Jesus taught (Matthew 6: 9 - 13).

### **GLORIFYING GOD**

Take time to praise the Lord for who He is, thanking Him for the wonderful things that He does for us. If we start with praise, it helps us realize that hope is not lost.

### **PRAY FOR PROVISION**

God is the provider of every good gift. Pray that He will provide all that we need in this world to continue a life of obedience to Him.

### **PRAY FOR GOD'S WILL**

We all face difficult times in life where things don't make sense. In those moments, pray seeking God's will rather than our desires.

### **CONFESS SINS**

We will never have perfect obedience, so we will need to pray confessing sin. This also allows others to give us accountability.

### **PRAY FOR PROTECTION**

Take the opportunity to pray that God would protect us from sin and temptation, providing us with a path to righteousness instead.

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## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED IN A HUDDLE?

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Every huddle is **organic** in nature. That means that we don't have signups for huddles at any point in time. We feel like those deeper relationships are best experienced through a natural relationship.

With that said, there are a few ways that we recommend finding a great huddle partner:

### **YOUR MISSIONAL COMMUNITY**

There probably isn't a better place than your Missional Community for finding one or two people to huddle with. If you aren't yet in a MC, that's a great place to start the process. Your Missional Community leader will be happy to help pair you with someone for a new huddle, or help you join an existing huddle. The relationships that you have in your MC are a great place to get started.

### **THE CREW YOU SERVE ON**

We often say that the **best** way to get to know someone is to serve with them. As you serve on your Sunday morning crew, you are able to build relationships with people you might normally not know by serving with them. Ask them if they are in a huddle or would like to join one.

### **HUDDLE EVENTS**

We will have a couple of events a year that are a great place to get together to hear stories about what God is doing in our huddles and to talk about getting the most out of your huddle. As a part of these events, we will bring people together who aren't yet in a huddle so that they can start new huddles together.

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## **HOW DO I BECOME A HUDDLE LEADER?**

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Becoming a huddle leader isn't a complicated process. In fact, it's very simple if you've been in a huddle for just a few weeks.

Many people are afraid to take the step to lead their own huddle because they feel like it will be complicated or too much for their lives. But truthfully, it's the most simple step into leadership inside of our church. There's no official process to walk through. You get to take the initiative to lead. Here's what you need to know:

### **KNOW HOW TO SOAP**

Once you know how to SOAP through a passage of scripture, then you can lead one or two others through the process of SOAPing in a group. As new people plug into your huddle, you need to be able to explain the process to them.

### **LEAD THE DISCUSSION**

The huddle leader is the one who keeps the huddle moving, guiding the SOAP process, asking others to share, leading the discussion for accountability and prayer. It should be natural conversation, negating the need for any complicated language.

### **BE WILLING TO PRAY**

If you are going to lead your huddle, then you want to be prepared to pray for those in your huddle out loud in the context of the group. Once everyone is comfortable, hopefully you are all praying for each other. Starting out, however, you may be in the situation where you are the only one comfortable with praying for those in your group.

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## **HOW DOES MY HUDDLE MULTIPLY?**

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Multiplying our huddles is necessary if we want to see discipleship be a part of who we are at Church at Cane Bay.

If we aren't faithful to multiply our huddles into more huddles, then we can't make sure that we are getting people plugged into this very important discipling relationship.

### **INVITE PEOPLE IN**

Even if your huddle is technically full, it's okay to invite other people into that relationship. Having more than three people puts a little pressure on your group to go ahead and multiply that huddle into two huddles.

### **PUT A TIME LIMIT ON IT**

Let's say you've been huddling with the same people for over a year. It might be a good moment to speak to those you are huddling with to encourage multiplication to happen. Challenge them to invite others in over a certain period of time so that you can go ahead and multiply.

### **MEET TOGETHER/HUDDLE SEPARATELY**

Your huddle might have a difficult time multiplying because they enjoy being together. Try meeting together for coffee/dinner as a group beforehand, then splitting up into smaller groups to do your actual huddle time. This provides a transition period until people get comfortable with their new arrangements.

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## **MAKING YOUR HUDDLE MISSIONAL**

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We believe that huddles are a great first connection point into the gospel for people that God has placed into your life.

Huddles are a wonderful place to live out the mission of God in the context of your community or workplace. Inviting someone that doesn't yet know Jesus into your huddle can be a great first step for that person.

### **IT'S LOW PRESSURE**

Asking a friend or co-worker who doesn't know Jesus to study the bible with you over coffee is sometimes easier than asking them to come to church. They probably wouldn't be too nervous to open the bible if it is in the context of normal life.

### **PEOPLE CRAVE INTIMACY**

That's one of the great things about a huddle. People will likely be willing to make the jump into a huddle with you simply because it provides them the opportunity to have a deep relationship with someone who cares for them.

### **IT'S GOSPEL FOCUSED**

Many of us would not know what to say to start a conversation with a friend about the gospel of Jesus. A huddle opens that door for you and takes away a lot of the pressure because it can't be escaped. If you are studying God's word with someone for even just a couple of weeks, you can't avoid talking about the good news of Jesus.

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## **RESOURCES FOR YOUR HUDDLE**

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At Church at Cane Bay, we want to make sure that our people are equipped to lead huddles by working through the SOAP method in Scripture, and providing prayer and accountability.

In order to see this happen, we want to provide you with the resources that you need in order to effectively grow together in the context of a huddle.

### **THE BIBLE**

There isn't any other material to work through in a huddle. The bible is God's inspired word, meaning that there isn't anything that could be a better source material. Using scripture means that people are learning to go to God's word personally for application in their lives.

### **THIS HUDDLE GUIDE**

We hope that this is a resource that will provide you with the information you need to answer most questions that you have about huddles and leading a huddle.

### **HUDDLE EVENTS**

From huddle leader training to huddle information events, we want to periodically provide events to resource your huddles.

### **THE DIVINE MENTOR**

If you want a detailed read on the impact huddles and SOAP can have, check out the book 'The Divine Mentor' by Wayne Cordeiro. It's a great read on the importance of this discipling relationship.

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## **FAQ ON HUDDLES**

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### **WHO SHOULD I BE IN A HUDDLE WITH?**

We recommend that you join a huddle with one or two others of your same gender, so that the accountability is more natural and doesn't cross any lines. If you want to have a huddle with your spouse, we believe that will be very valuable, but recommend that you still have a huddle with someone else for accountability purposes.

### **HOW BIG IS TOO BIG FOR MY HUDDLE?**

If you have a huddle with too many people, it can start to feel more like a crowd than a huddle. You won't have the time to work through the passage and you lose the intimacy of the group. We recommend that our groups are two to three people, but we allow for one or two more if multiplication is the goal and is planned to happen soon.

### **WHY DOESN'T THE CHURCH JUST SIGN US UP?**

We believe that our huddles will be stronger relationally and will multiply easier if they are built on natural relationships rather than forced encounters. If huddles are working the way they should be, then we couldn't keep up with who is in what huddle because they would be constantly multiplying.

### **WHAT IF I WANT TO GO DEEPER?**

Honestly, we don't believe that you can go deeper than intense study of God's word. The Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit and breathed out of God's own mouth. No other resource can come close to expressing this much life, hope, and depth.

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## **MORE FAQ ON HUDDLES**

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### **IS THERE ANOTHER LEVEL FOR HUDDLES?**

We have created a curriculum for huddles for those who want to take deeper steps into leadership in our church. If you want access to that information, just email Joel Ainsworth at [ainsworth.joel@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworth.joel@gmail.com).

### **WHERE IS A GOOD PLACE TO START HUDDLING IN SCRIPTURE?**

Anywhere in Scripture is a wonderful place to get started -

- If you want to learn more about Jesus, go to the Gospel of John.
- If you desire something practical, head to Proverbs or James.
- Acts is a great place to start to see the church in action.
- Ephesians or Colossians are great places to start in Paul's letters.

### **HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS?**

For us, it's incredibly important. As believers, we need an environment that focuses on bible study, prayer, and accountability. Because Missional Communities are so focused on mission and community, this environment is very important in the life of a believer in our church.

### **SHOULD I BE IN MORE THAN ONE HUDDLE?**

Normally, our lives stay pretty full and we don't want to add too much to your plate. If however, you desire to be in more than one huddle, we would encourage you to use the one hand up/one hand down principle. Have one hand up into a huddle where someone can mentor/disciple you, but also have one hand down, investing in someone who is not a believer or a new believer.