

AGREEMENT FORM

MY AGREEMENT

LEADER'S GUIDE

Red notes are for the LEADER HOST when discussing the 'My Agreement' Form.

Impact Groups thrive on participation!
An agreement helps discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations and commitments.

Impact Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and study God's Word.

Our goal is to interact interpersonally on the topic and how we can practically follow Christ, not to answer all the questions.

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives.

At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions", but after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous Sunday Service Message or an appropriate personal growth topic.

Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (*John 15:9-13*).

This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual Growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fill is important to the health of the Church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community and world.

Throughout this term of Impact Groups, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.



Five Marks of a Healthy Group

For our group to be healthy, we need to:

1. Make spiritual growth our number one priority (*Romans 8:29*)

Tangents - they are OK sometimes, but sometimes we need to be refocused. We'll need to keep spiritual growth our focus and stay on topic.

2. Accept each other (*Romans 5:7*)

We all have different preferences.

3. Take care of one another (*John 13:34*)

When crises happen we're there to help with support, prayer, encouragement, listening, meals, etc.

4. Treat each other with respect (*Ephesians 4:25-52*)

Listening to one another, if one's talking let's all listen, nothing worse than two conversations going on at once.

Our goal is to listen, not give advice. (Advice is given when asked for) We are not here to judge or fix – unless someone asks. An example of giving advice is by saying, "Well this is what I think you should do." On the other hand, that doesn't mean we can't question what is said or what someone is doing.

Some of us have the gift of gab, also known as a dominator – be careful, I as a leader might have to help you.

Be careful of gossip prayers. For example "we need to pray for (person's name) because they are doing this ..."

No put-downs.

What is said here, stays here – unless of course what's shared would be harmful to yourself or someone else, and/or if I as the Leader Host need to seek counsel on how to respond to an issue in the group.

5. Keep our commitments to the group (*Psalms 15:1-2, 4b*)

Please give us a call if you can't make it to Impact Group so we know what's going on and how to pray for you.



Guidelines & Covenant Agreement

1. Dates We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks.

2. Time We'll arrive between _____ & _____ and begin the meeting at _____.

We'll spend _____ minutes singing (optional), _____ minutes in study/discussion, and _____ minutes in prayer/sharing.

3. Children We will arrange to have our children cared for (if applicable).

Fill in the blanks on your Agreement form and ask everyone to do the same.

4. Study We commit to furthering our spiritual growth in the topic the group is currently studying.

Not to answer every question!

5. Prayer We commit to praying for one another.

You'll go over tips on topical prayer the second week of group. Remember - being forced to pray in group or just the idea of it can cause people to not want to come to your group. If you have new people in your group, you might want to say something like this: "It's exciting to see how God works in our lives through prayer. We also realize prayer in groups is something many have never done. Know that you will never be forced to pray." Let them know you'll talk more in the weeks to come on how we do group prayer and that we break a lot of the stereotypes of what it means to pray.

6. Homework We commit to completing any applicable homework ahead of time.

Emphasise the importance of the commitment to attendance and preparation.

Make sure that everyone is with you. (Do we agree? Is this what we want? Make eye contact.

Most weeks require 20-30 minutes of homework to prepare for the group study and discussion.

Final Arrangements

This is a good time to discuss the final arrangements relevant to your group, such as:

- Child minding
- Dessert (Have everyone sign up to bring a dessert one night each)
- Answer any housekeeping questions

Now is also a great time to emphasise the importance of a **social and service project**. As a leader and host, have 2 or 3 suggestions. Choose a date or ask the group to bring their calendars next week. It is preferable for new groups to have their social within the first month.

