

HOW TO RUN YOUR FIRST MEETING

Getting Off to a Great Start

Ok, so you've got an Impact Group together and you are either the Leader Host or Apprentice Leader Host. You've organised to open up your home (or found an appropriate venue) and you've scheduled your first meeting.

That's great!

But what do you actually do in your first meeting? Here's a helpful guide that will help make your first meeting a success.

Goals of the First Meeting



- Rekindle relationships and meet new members
- Clarify your group's direction / expectations / commitments using the Agreement
- Briefly discuss the Message 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
- Impact Group Agreements
 - Small ones (A5)
 - A large one for everyone to sign
- Nametags (host should write these out ahead of time)

Contact Your Group in Advance



Contact all members one week before the first meeting to welcome them to the group and inform them of the location and time of your group, as well as any entrees to bring for dinner

3 Essential Parts of Your Agenda

1. Welcome

Everyone loves food - mingle while you eat!

- Greet people when they arrive
- Make drinks available when people arrive
- Have upbeat music playing
- Have the house cleaned
- Have your phone off if possible

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.

2. The First Session

You will need to think through the *uniqueness* on your first group discussion.

- Let people know your meeting is going to start in about 5 minutes
- Talk about why it is unique - get to know each other and set 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
- Get to know each other casually (new groups), or
- Re-acquaint with each other (continuing groups)

b) Worship (optional)

c) The Agreement

- Distribute the Agreement
- Go over the Covenant (See Leader's Guide)
- Begin making plans for your social event

THE AGREEMENT

Going over the Agreement is crucial - it sets the expectations and the vision. **Everything** rises and falls on how this is communicated.

d) 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 Apprentice Leader Host to close in a brief prayer dedicating the coming 12 weeks 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 12 weeks.

3. Dessert Conversations

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 about them.

