

Embrace Ideas for Community Groups

Use the first meeting to talk about the purpose of our Community groups, the "end" date, and the covenant sheet. Hand out the covenant sheet, but allow the group to edit and have input. (sign at the next meeting)

Use the second meeting to share your life stories, include major spiritual movements (salvation process/moment) hardships, sin issues, big growth movements. (be sure to have two courageous members go first to-hopefully, prayerfully-set the stage for deep, vulnerable sharing).

Rotate homes, as able, to let the group into each person's life.

Recommend sharing a meal together for at least the first evening.

Take prayer requests, to the degree the group is comfortable sharing. Follow up at the next meeting.

Start each evening with a quick ice breaker - share one high and one low from the previous week.

Draw out the strengths of the members, for example if one person has a heart for extending allow them to seek out opportunities for the group, if one member has the gift of administration and can send reminders or notes to the group, let that be their job, if a member has the gift of hospitality and likes to bring dessert - allow them to do that, etc...

Seek out fun events beyond bible study- have a game night, go bowling, have a picnic.

Use a format of open ended questions - try to start with why, how, what - not - do you agree? don't you think so? (This is Key to developing discussions)

Celebrate milestones. After completing the first study as a group- have an ice cream night, and just be social. Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, new births etc.

Plan an extend activity together, rub elbows, work hard together. At your next meeting, start by each person sharing their thoughts/feelings from the activity. (sharing a time together in a service project, then following with an opportunity to process and share how each one experienced it can have a very powerful bonding impact. People tend to share more readily about themselves when volunteering together than sitting in a meeting)

Share life changing moments in different parts of your life, some happy, some hard/challenging.