

CONNECT GROUP QUICK START

Hello leader! Thank you for taking up the call to lead a Connect Group. This Connect Group Quick Start is to give you basic tips to create an environment where people can discover and live out the life God intends through community with God's people.

- **Pray first**

Pray for your Connect Group before you even start. Your dependence on God is key to being a good leader. Praying for your Connect Group helps you keep the right perspective, and that you can't do this by yourself and on your own talent.

- **Set the stage**

Prepare your heart. Remind yourself to remain humble and that your Connect Group is not about you. Have an understanding of the content you are discussing and think of good engaging questions.

Prepare the environment. Create a safe and predictable environment where members can pursue healthy relationships and spiritual growth. Remember: circles are better than rows.

- **Start with fellowship**

Other aspects of a person's faith are important, but fellowship is the front door. Building community and having fun together helps build trust for people to let their guard down and open up.

- **TPP (Truth, People, Prayer)**

3 basic elements:

Truth: Discuss truth from God's word whether it is discussing last weekend's message, a Christian book study, a video series, or sharing what everyone read in their devotionals that week.

People: Connect Groups are about people, so we encourage everyone to share, discuss, and ask questions. We believe people grow the best in a safe environment where they can be authentic with others.

Lead by the 30/70 rule, which means you talk 30% of the time at the most, and the group is discussing the rest of the 70%. Your main role is facilitating discussion between members of the group. Also, know that small is good, and that the optimum discussion and sharing happens in a group of 4-10 people.

Prayer: Prayer is a powerful part of a Connect Group as we share our lives we also bear our burdens by praying for each other's needs.

- **People > Program**

Your agenda is not as important as the people that attend your Connect Group. Be flexible, and leave room for the Holy Spirit. Change the plan when someone needs to be loved, listened to, and prayed for.

- **Think next steps**

Jesus commanded us to disciple people. Discipleship is simply encouraging someone to go to the next step in their faith. That could be as simple as someone learning to pray or reading a Bible verse during the week.

- **Have fun!**

Connect Groups become family and great families have fun together. Have a Connect Group fun night where you play games, go out to eat, and just enjoy each other's company. Also, plan activities outside of Connect Group like beach days or hikes.