



LIVE JESUS MINISTRIES

SMALL GROUP STARTER KIT

(Discern doing something completely unstructured and fun for night one, and make this night two.)

SMALL GROUP GATHERING #1

Begin the gathering with some unstructured hangout time. (if you do not know everyone, make sure you introduce yourself to all of them during this time. Ask them questions. (e.g. “So (NAME), tell me something unique about you that will help me never forget your name.” Try to remember these details.)

Officially start: Share why and how you ended up as a mentor for this group. Thank the teen(s) who put the group together for taking that step. Start with a short prayer.

Question #1: “Share your name, grade, church, school, and how would you describe yourself in three words or fewer?”

Question #2: “Have you ever participated in a small group before, whether on a retreat, at school, at your church, at work, or somewhere else?”

- If yes, what were some of your favorite things about that small group experience? Was there anything you disliked about that experience?
- If no, what are you hoping this small group can provide for you?
 - (pay attention to these answers to begin discerning where your group is at in the process of discipleship - 5 thresholds...)

Express Small Group Privacy: “As we kick off this small group, hopefully build up some amazing spiritual friendships, and grow in faith, we really want to cultivate an environment of brutally honest sharing with one another. With that said, an expectation I’d like to set is that we will **Never share anything discussed in our small group with those who don’t need to know it.** Yes, we are all human and sometimes we slip up, but let’s do our best to build trust and respect between one another and make this a safe space to share honestly. Also, if at any time someone shares that they are in a situation where harm is being caused to them or someone else, that is something we would expect everyone to keep private and as leaders, we would work with you and those we need to get you the help needed.” (Ask them all if this sounds good to them)(Reiterate this occasionally with your group).

Move into Life Stories: Next, ask everyone to share their life story with the group. Childhood, middle school, high school experiences. Major moments or events that have taken place in their life and how God and faith have played into all of it. Set the standard by going first or have the teen who created the group go first. Express that this is not a one minute sharing, but a sharing of one's life story and they can go as deep and long as they want. You won't have enough time to finish these so continue these into your second small group gathering. Have anyone that joins the group at a later time share their story as well.

Wrap Up: Thank those who shared their story and explain that the group will continue with life stories at the next gathering. “Eventually, the normal flow for our small group gatherings will be to start with some **prayer**, followed by a check in to **connect** with one another. After the check-ins we can decide what type of **discussions** we want to explore. Things about faith, God, prayer, the world, or just life stuff in general. We’ll end by trying to come up with a **commitment** to work on together until our next small group gathering as we try to become better followers of Jesus.” Share that an honest check in is one of the most important ways we can journey with each other in faith, sharing the highs, lows, victories and struggles since the last gathering. So come ready to jump into that next gathering. Remind them of the next meeting date, time, & location. Set the parameters with communication, and parent communication.

Close with a short prayer
Send parent update email



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SMALL GROUP GATHERING #2 (Might spill into a third gathering)

Begin the gathering with some unstructured hangout time. (if you do not know everyone, make sure you introduce yourself to all of them during this time. Utilize the questions “So (NAME), tell me something unique about you that will help me to never forget your name.”)

PRAY - CONNECT - DISCUSS - COMMIT

PRAY: Utilize the **Pray** step of your mentor training.

CONNECT:

- **Life Stories (continued):** Ask those who haven't shared yet to share their life story with the group. Childhood, middle school, high school experiences. Major moments or events that have taken place in their life and how God and faith have played into all of it. Set the standard by going first or have the teen who created the group go first. Express that this is not a one minute sharing, but a sharing of one's life story and they can go as deep and long as they want.
- **Check In Questions: (only use one or two)**
 - *If you could tell a group of adults what it's currently like to be a teenager today and you knew they would listen to you, what would you tell them?*
 - Have them write their answers down and give them to you to read at home.
Discuss as a group at the next small group
 - *What's the number one thing you pray about and why?*
 - Have everyone share their **Peaks**(highs/victories) & **Pits**(lows/struggles) since the last gathering and their current **Prayer** intention (write prayer intentions down in a group journal. Let them know they can look back through this journal at any time).

DISCUSS: Use as many questions as you need. You can always pick up where you leave off.

(Remember: Relationship is the goal. Discuss is all about the second question)

- **Question #1:** On a scale of one to ten, how would you currently rate your relationship with God?
Why did you choose that number?
- **Question #2:** Do you think it's possible to say at moments that your relationship with your best friend is at a 9 or 10 out of 10? If so, why does it seem so hard to say that about our relationship with God?
- **Question #3:** What do you think it would look like for someone to have an intimate relationship with God?
- **Question #4:** Is there anything currently holding your relationship with God back? How can we help?
(e.g. lack of faith, particular sins, doubt in His existence, lack of effort, fear, etc)

Teaching Moment: Growing deeper in our relationship with God is all about spending time with Him, just like any other relationship. If we don't spend intentional time with Him, He becomes an acquaintance or even worse, a complete stranger.

COMMIT

- How are you going to spend intentional time with God in prayer until the next time we gather?(individual commits or a collective group commit is fine)

Remind them of the next meeting date, location, time

Extend the invitation to other youth events offered at your location or by Live Jesus Ministries.

(extend these invitations at your discretion).

MENTOR NEXT STEP: Begin to determine where your teens are at using the Thresholds of Conversion. Discern how to continue mentoring them, whether that's by simply building relationships (go do something fun), or jumping into customized content for your group. You can always ask your coordinator to help you discern if needed. Keep in mind that Relationship is their most basic need. Start there.