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| page1image41901168  **dGroup Leader Onboarding Track Session Notes**  **Session 3: How to Lead a Discipleship Group Speaker:** Pastor Julie Gowans **Scriptures:** Joshua 3:5, Ephesians 4:15, Matthew 28:19  **Summary**  This session provides a practical framework for leading a discipleship group effectively, based on the Bethel method. Emphasizing spiritual preparation, relational care, and structured flow, leaders are encouraged to model humility, intentionality, and faithfulness. This session outlines four essential parts of every dGroup meeting: warm-up, Word, discussion, and prayer. Leaders are reminded that their role is both a spiritual and relational responsibility—to create a space where group members grow in relationship with God and one another while being transformed by the Word.  **I. The Heart of a Discipleship Leader**  \*Begin each gathering by spiritually preparing your heart (Joshua 3:5). \*Approach leadership with humility, compassion, and a heart to shepherd people well. \*Arrive early, prepare the space, and greet each person with intentional warmth. \*Make everyone feel seen and valued.  **II. Four Key Segments of a dGroup Meeting**  **1. Warm-Up / Icebreaker (10-15 min)**  Purpose: Get everyone to speak and connect early. Ask lighthearted, non-controversial questions. Avoid anything too personal or heavy; keep it fun and simple.  **2. Word (Teaching Time) (15-30 min)**  Leader presents a prepared teaching from the Bible or sermon notes. This is the only segment where only the leader speaks. Content should be relevant, clear, and gospel centered.  **3. Application / Discussion (10-15 min)**  Objective: Move from hearing to doing (James 1:22–25 implied).  Everyone shares what impacted them, what the Holy Spirit highlighted, or how they will apply the Word.  This is a time of mutual encouragement, vulnerability, and spiritual insight.  **4. Prayer (10-15 min)**  Avoid spending the whole time on prayer requests—focus on praying together.  Vary the format: group prayer, pairs, popcorn-style, or leader-led.  **III. Ongoing Leadership Practices**  Pray regularly for group members with your co-leader. Respond to Holy Spirit promptings—reach out when someone comes to mind. Shepherding is an ongoing honor—steward the people entrusted to you with care and prayer.  **Application Questions**   1. How are you preparing your heart spiritually before leading your group each week? 2. How are you creating space for both structured teaching and meaningful group discussion? 3. In what ways can you be more intentional about praying for and connecting with group members throughout the week? 4. Are you cultivating a group atmosphere where people feel safe, seen, and spiritually challenged? |
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