



# IN FOCUS MEETING (Family Meal & Communion)

## PLANNING GUIDE

Use this General Guide to help you lead your next IN Meeting (a Bible-centered gathering that helps people grow to love like Jesus). There are numerous options for you to pick from in order to plan a meeting that is customized to your CG (and in accordance with how Holy Spirit is leading you).

### MEETING GOAL:

Facilitate discussion over a meal relating to how we are growing/learning to love others more like Jesus, and celebrating the sacrament of communion together.

### BEFORE THE MEETING:

- Remind the group about the upcoming meeting (location, date, time), and what the plan is for food (potluck, pitch in for delivery, etc.);
- Make sure to print the scheduled Communion Guide (see [Leader Resources](#)) for yourself and group members, and don't forget to bring (or delegate) the communion elements;
- At least once a month, meet as leaders to:
  - Plan who is leading which week;
  - Assess the CG development, including each member's UPWARD, INWARD, OUTWARD & FORWARD growth;
  - To check in with each other, pray for one another and pray for the group together.

## STEP 1: ICE-BREAKER

### PICK ONE:

- [Find Someone Bingo Who Am I?](#)
- [Who Am I?](#)
- Catch Phrase
- Spot It
- [4 Corners](#)
- 2 Truths & 1 Lie
- Highs and lows since you last met?
- Dashboard: Check in how everyone is doing physically, mentally/emotionally, spiritually?
- How did you see God working in your life last week/month (answered prayers, praise reports, testimonies)?
- More Icebreakers: <https://teambuilding.com/blog/icebreaker-questions>

### IF VISITORS or it's a "WELCOME BACK" MEETING:

- Go around and do introductions;
- Briefly go through basic introductory information:
  - [CG Definition](#): A Community Group ("CG") is a gospel-centered group that share life and a mission to bless our city. Our local focus is\_\_\_\_\_.
  - [Mission](#): That we grow to live and love like Jesus, while leading others to do the same;
  - [What To Expect](#): meeting location(s) each week, start/end times, how we communicate (within Messaging on MC App), etc.
  - [Group Policies](#): Everything discussed remains confidential, we always respect one another (even when different viewpoints & opinions), and everyone is welcome (no matter what you believe or how long you have been following Jesus).

## STEP 2: ANNOUNCEMENTS/ TRANSITION TO DISCUSSION

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Review MC Upcoming Events With Group  
<https://monterey.church/events>
- Reminders about upcoming CG Events (Serve or Enjoying Our City), next week's meeting, etc.

### TRANSITIONS (pick one):

- Read a Psalm;
- Play a worship song; or
- Pray/ask someone to pray.

## STEP 3: DISCUSSION & COMMUNION

Pick a few questions below:

- On a scale of 1-10, how did you do last week in loving others like Jesus?
- What was one example of how you loved like Jesus?
- What is one way that you failed to love like Jesus?
- Think about the person in your life that is currently the most difficult for you to love. Without sharing names/details of their identity, what are some specific ways that you think Jesus would have you love them?
- What verse or passage comes to mind when you think about loving like Jesus? Read those out loud and discuss.
- Did you do that one thing that you said you were going to do last week to love more like Jesus? How did it go?
- What is one thing you can do this week to love more like Jesus?

**Pass out communion elements and Communion Guides and read/lead the group through the sacrament.**

## STEP 4: PRAYER

- Pray for wisdom and power to love more like Jesus this week.
- Go around and ask each member “What is one thing that you would like the group to pray for (personally) this week?” or
- Make sure to create time for prayer as a group, and allow space (even periods of silence) to give people time to listen to God and pray aloud as they feel led; or
- Have everyone write a prayer request on a piece a paper, fold it up and put in a hat and have everyone pick a prayer to be praying for this week; or
- Have everyone set a daily timer to pray at the same time for one another; or
- Have each person pray every day this week for the person on your left or right.

### **AFTER THE MEETING (pick one):**

- Who needs encouragement this week? Ask how the Lord wants you to specifically encourage that person this week.
- Ensure that your Serve Event for this semester has been scheduled and all responsibilities have been delegated.
- Encourage the group with a verse from the reading this week, and see what stood out to them in the chat.
- Reach out to members that you haven't seen in awhile.
- Divide roster of members between leaders and begin praying for/meeting with your assigned members to learn their goals for spiritual growth, and how best to encourage/shepherd them.
- Ask Holy Spirit to reveal one thing about a member, and share it with them (ICNU Affirmations)!
- Remember the 3 I's - Identify, Invite and Invest in those future leaders!
- Delegate one part of next week's meeting to the F.A.S.T (Faithful, Available, Servant-Hearted, Teachable) members (posting on chat, leading Ice Breaker, writing down prayer requests, etc.)