

GROUP MEETING TEMPLATE

Refreshments / Mingle (10-15 minutes)

- helps establish a level of social comfort
- sets the tone for the rest of the group
- can be the most important time of the night, especially for newcomers

Sharing / Ice-Breaker (15 minutes)

- updates on what's happening in life
- may be very structured or much more free-flowing, depending on group dynamics and familiarity
- New groups: choose a simple ice-breaker question or group activity to help put people at ease (check out 'Group Leader Tools' at newcity.church/growing for ideas)

Curriculum / Discussion /Activity (30-45 minutes)

- use the 30/70 principle – as the group leader, don't talk more than 30% of the time, leaving at least 70% of the time for others to contribute
- never force people to share
- don't feel the need to complete all the questions in your curriculum – find the groove for your group
- consider having different members of the group lead different portions, or different weeks
- look for ways to leave people with a 'next step' during the week

Prayer (15 minutes)

- prayer requests
- routinely break up into smaller groups of 3-4 to pray – splitting up guys and gals is often profitable for more honest praying
- encourage "couple-sentence prayers" – this will contain the confident, long-winded prayers and enable the more introverted to pray out loud