

COMMUNITY GROUP

4 PHASES OF A GROUP MEETING

CONNECT: (15-30 MIN)

This is when the group connects relationally with one another. This moves people from thinking about family and work to being fully present with the group. A few options include:

- **Food:** Give time to get snacks, chat, warm up to the environment and each other.
- **Icebreaker:** For ideas go to the Group Leader Resource webpage.
- **Story Cards:** You can borrow a box of Story Cards from me anytime.
- **Personal/Group Check-In:** You could ask the group to share their Highs/Lows from the week since you last met.

LEARN: (40-50 MIN)

This is when you discuss the purpose of your time together – whether that is a study, an activity, or a video. This should take up the bulk of your meeting time. These best practices help groups achieve authentic community, spiritual growth, and help people take responsibility for their own growth.

- **Stay Connected:** Prioritize everyone's growing relationship with Jesus Christ
- **Cultivate Relationships:** Connect relationally through growing spiritually
- **Share Ownership:** Delegate tasks such as scheduling, facilitating discussions, snacks, socials, or finding service projects
- **Provide Care:** Be aware of what is going on in the lives of the group members and how the group can come alongside each other

APPLY & PRAY: (15-30 MIN)

This is when you ask the group, "What is one thing you will take away from what we discussed today?" and "How can we pray for one another?"

- **Application:** discuss how to apply your group discussion and how God may be at work in the group member's lives. Send the group away with a challenge for the week that pertains to the content of your meeting.
- **Prayer:** an opportunity to pray for one another individually. Not everyone has to share, but ask that requests are focused on personal needs and/or content from the session. This creates intentionality around the requests and ensures that the group stays focused on building community.