
MAKE YOUR FIRST NIGHT GREAT

Goals of The First Meeting

- Welcome new members & reconnect with existing members making everyone feel a part of 1 team
- Clarify your group's vision / expectations / priorities using the Group Commitment
- Provide a taste of what it will be like to encounter God and support each other in regular group

Items Needed for The First Meeting

- Start the first meeting with a POTLUCK meal or with bringing desserts / appetizers to share. Encourage everyone to bring something – even if small. This is a great way to help new folks understand they are full participants and contributors.
- Have Growth Group Commitment forms and write on sticky nametags

Contact Your Group in Advance

- Contact new folks within 48 hours of receiving their registration with a personal call.
- Contact all members one week before the first meeting to welcome them to the group and inform them of the location and time of your group, as well as any instructions as to what to bring for the group Potluck.

Recommended AGENDA (flex as seems good)

1 | Welcome, mingle and talk while you eat. (about 25 - 35 minutes)

- **Leadership Tips:** Studies show that the first 7 seconds a person spends in a room can make or break the remainder of their experience in that room. Welcome people, and introduce them to each other.
- **Transition:** After the meal, let people know your meeting is going to start in about 5 minutes, explain where restroom is, invite to grab another cup of coffee and then move to meeting area.

2 | Begin the formal group time with leader or host praying (2-4 min)

3 | Introductions – Go around and have everyone introduce themselves. start with low risk getting to know you questions like name, family, what do you do during the day, nickname growing up (10-20 min)

- **Note to Returning Leaders:** Feel free to adapt the sharing exercises based on the number of new members. All groups are encouraged to do some of the get-to-know-you questions.

4 | Group Commitment: Set the vision & expectations (15-25 min)

- **Invite reflection:** Ask people to describe the best group or organization they were a part of AND what made it great?
- **Distribute and review** the Group Vision & Commitment. Clarifying expectations creates safety for new folks. Ask for Questions. Explain that next week we will sign the commitment form.

5 | Interact some with this week's Study Guide (15 - 30 minutes)

- Hand out copies *this week* of the study guide. Explain that their homework each week is to interact with the section in the bulletin, which is also on line @ <https://2rc.onthecity.org/plaza/groups>
- Start with the "Getting to know you" questions. If time, transition to several of the "Living It Out" questions.

6 | Explain that IN Future weeks we will take some time to divide into smaller groups for sharing, accountability, & prayer. (Either men / women / groups of 3-6 - likely not be time first week).

- In normal weeks use the "Taking It Home" section of study guide for direction

7 | Spend some time praying for any prayer requests & for God to work powerfully in & through the group. End on time, and know that post meeting conversations are hugely significant.