
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

- Snacks. Encourage everyone to bring something – even if small.
- Group Commitment sheets
- Rosters for all new people
- 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 and give meeting details.

Recommended AGENDA – Plan for 1.5 hours

- ___1 | **Welcome, mingle and talk while you eat** (about 25-30 minutes)
- **Tips:** Arrive early. Welcome each guest and introduce them to each other. Use nametags
 - **Transition:** After the snack, 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 minutes)
- ___3 | **Introductions – Go around and have everyone introduce themselves. Start with low risk Question like name, family, where did you grow up? You go first set model.** (15 min)
- **Note to Returning Groups:** Feel free to adapt the sharing exercises based on the number of new members. All groups are encouraged to do some get-to-know-you questions each week.
- ___4 | **Group Commitment: Set the vision & expectations** (15-minutes)
- **New groups:** Ask people to describe the best group or organization they were a part of and what made it great?
 - **Distribute and review** the Group Commitment page. Clarifying expectations creates safety for new folks. Ask for Questions. Returning groups can just highlight a few things without distributing sheet.
- ___5 | **Interact some with this week's Study Guide** (15 minutes)
- Hand out copies of this week's discussion page. Explain that discussion is best if everyone does personal study with questions ahead of time. They are in the bulletin, and online on Groups page.
- ___6 | **Explain weekly format:** refreshments/discussion/prayer. In the future you might divide into smaller groups for sharing, accountability, & prayer.
- ___7 | **Prayer: (10)** Ask for prayer requests & for God to work powerfully through the group. End on time. Plan to visit after the meeting, but not hold host highjacked.
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