

101 FOR SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS

Before your group arrives...

- **Set up** your chosen room with enough chairs plus one or two extras (if possible) in a CIRCLE. Make sure that all SG members can see each other and that no one is on the periphery.
- Have tea/coffee/hot choc/water, cups, sugar, milk, and a small plate of supper ready. Perhaps have it so that people can help themselves to allow SG host to not have to be serving people but can join in the group. You may wish to start with tea/coffee time and have people drinking together as your group meets or you may choose to close with this fellowship time. It's up to you and your group – perhaps decide together?
- Have some **extra bibles** (lots at church available), paper & pens available on a table in case people don't have one.
- Go to church website and download/print off the **SG Bible Study Notes & Questions** sheet so that it is ready to go. Have a quick read to familiarise yourself with material you'll be discussing.
- Maybe have some **music** playing in the background for people for when they arrive.
- Make sure your **front light** is on so people can easily identify your home (if it's dark!).

Getting Started...

- Be sure to **start on time**. Gather everyone to the circle. Welcome and briefly outline the purpose of SGs. Open with a brief **prayer**.
- Have a quick & easy **icebreaker** prepared. See link for ideas. Don't let these go for too long. Just a bit of a warm up. Feel free to delegate these to others in your group in future weeks.
<https://icebreakerideas.com/icebreakers-small-groups/> some great introduction / getting to know you games
<http://teachmama.com/minute-win-games-kids-family/> some fun, silly ones perhaps for future weeks.
- In the first few gatherings it may be a good idea to hear a little about each other – conduct some interviews of different ones, asking typical getting to know you questions. However you are welcome to see if this is best for your group.

Bible Study Discussion Time...

- Remember the discussion / study component should go for **at least 30mins**. We understand this may be hard for the first few weeks as people get used to the SG format. We are sure it will build over the first few weeks.
- It might be a good idea to **outline the main idea / theme** of the sermon to give everyone a refresher. You could invite others to weigh-in here too.
- You may wish to re-read the main passage / scriptures used together.
- Be sure to get to the questions part. **Involve** as many people as you can in the discussion.

Prayer time...

- **Pray** for one another along the lines of the bible study/sermon or things brought up in the discussion. Invite people to share any other prayer needs. Make sure you define who will pray last to "close" off the time,
- **Thank** everyone for coming, discuss next meeting.
- Perhaps your group may want to make a roster of people to bring a plate of something to share. Up to you.

Final thoughts...

- Bring your individual personality to your group. Don't be rigid – mix it up each week if you feel.
- Let us know if you have any ideas/tips to share with other SG leaders.