

GROUP SCHEDULING

THE VISION

Our goal is for Community Groups to be marked by transformed lives because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe our groups need to be vibrant, relevant, engaging and transformative, and to do that, groups need to take great care in scheduling both their group meetings and the content of those meetings.

KEEP IN MIND

1. **COMMITMENT & CONSISTENCY** are the top priority because without them authenticity will be limited and, without authenticity, the group will grow in an unhealthy direction (Hebrews 10:25).
2. **FLEXIBILITY & GRACE:** Groups need to be experts in giving and receiving both. (Ephesians 4:32).
3. **BALANCE IS BEST** in community, growth, care and mission (1 Corinthians 8:1).
4. **HONOR PEOPLE'S TIME:** Be appropriately firm on starting and ending on time (Romans 12:10).
5. **DON'T JUST ATTEND COMMUNITY GROUP, TEND TO GOD'S WORD TOGETHER:** Topical studies are helpful, but digging into the Bible together is better (2 Timothy 3:16).

RECOMMENDED MARRIED GROUP SCHEDULE (1.5 HOUR MEETING)

To help married groups move toward relationships that are authentic and transformative, consider meeting together as couples every other week for a study/prayer. Meanwhile during the in-between weeks, husbands meet with husbands and wives with wives. It is important to have a weekly touchpoint with your group. This will allow for a more consistent time where struggles/concerns can be shared with one another (James 5:16).

Suggested Schedule for group time (1.5 hour meeting)

COUPLES

- Catch up Time (20 min)
- Lesson & Discussion (40 min)
- Group Prayer (30 min)
- Community Time (optional)

MEN/WOMEN ONLY

- Catch up Time (15 min)
- Opening Prayer (1 min)
- Accountability (45 min) [See "Accountability Questions."]
- Prayer (30 min)

ROTATIONS

The design is for rotations to be used between studies. For example, if you finish a seven-week study, change things up by doing a 4 or 5 week rotation. Groups do better when the group calendar is predictable but refreshing.

4-week Rotation (1.5 hour meeting)

- Week 1: Devotional Lesson & Prayer (Rotate who leads this.)
- Week 2: Accountability
- Week 3: TOP TWO & Prayer
- Week 4: Relational Time—Do something fun

5-week Rotation (1.5 hour meeting)

- Week 1: Devotional Lesson & Prayer (Rotate who leads this.)
- Week 2: Accountability
- Week 3: TOP TWO & Prayer
- Week 4: Accountability
- Week 5: Relational Time—Do Something fun

GENERAL TIPS

COMMUNITY TIME:

- *Plan ahead:* Put items on the calendar far in advance or they most likely won't happen
- *Authenticity & Accountability:* The purpose of this week is to go deeper and talk about areas those individuals in the group need biblical counsel and accountability on by splitting into smaller groups within the group. Discussion/accountability questions are available.

PRAYER TIME:

- Have group members pray for one another instead of one person praying for everyone.
- Encourage group members to share requests pertaining to themselves, outside group requests can be sent via email to the prayer coordinator and the prayer coordinator can send out one email with all prayer needs.