

# Guide for Missional Accountability Groups

## GROUND RULES FOR GROUPS:

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| <b>Size:</b>                         | 2-5 (ideally 3-4)  |
| <b>Frequency:</b>                    | Weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly  |
| <b>Location:</b>                     | Private in person (not a public space) or an online meeting platform   |
| <b>Leadership:</b>                   | One convener/communicator, group members rotate who leads discussion each meeting  |
| <b>Confidentiality:</b>              | Groups are safe spaces - all information should be held in strictest confidence  |
| <b>Gender:</b>                       | Men should meet with men and women should meet with women. Couples should not meet with other couples for the purpose of accountability.   |
| <b>Humor:</b>                        | While laughter is healthy and encouraged, no one person should be made fun of. Care should be taken to not put anyone down and ensure that humor is God-honoring.  |
| <b>Relationship with the church:</b> | Groups should be an extension of, and not a replacement for, the ministry of the local church. Participants should desire greater involvement in the ministry of their local congregation.   |
| <b>Purpose:</b>                      | The purpose of the group is for mutual accountability for discipleship and mission. While the group will reference and use the Bible, the purpose is not Bible study. While the group will pray, the purpose of the group is not prayer. While the group will fellowship, the purpose of the group is not fellowship. While group members may read the same book, the purpose is not a book study. The purpose of the group is for mutual accountability for discipleship and mission! |

## SAMPLE OUTLINE OF A GROUP MEETING:

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| <b>Scripture:</b>      | Choose a Bible verse or brief passage of scripture to read aloud to focus your time  |
| <b>Opening Prayer:</b> | Discussion leader opens with a brief prayer. Prayer may reflect the scripture and invite the Holy Spirit to open hearts and minds and accomplish God's will in and through the lives of the group members in this meeting. |
| <b>Check-in:</b>       | Discussion leader leads a brief check-in conversation. Sharing "highs" and "lows" can be a way to help group members to reflect on and share the most significant joys and sorrows of the time since the group last met.   |

(CONTINUED ON THE BACK)

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| <b>Questions:</b>    | <p>Discussion leader introduces each of the following questions for self-reflection and mutual sharing. The time period to be reflected upon is the normal duration between meetings.</p> <p><b>EVANGELISM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How have you heard and/or experienced the Gospel and God’s grace in your life?</li> <li>• How has God used you to share or express the Gospel to another? How have you personally been a vessel of God’s grace to another?</li> </ul> <p><b>DISCIPLESHIP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How has God been shaping your walk with Jesus? Who is God using in your life to help you follow Jesus?</li> <li>• How has God used you to help another to walk with Jesus? Who in your life has God opened the door to potentially lead and guide?</li> </ul> <p><b>KINGDOM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How have you experienced God at work in the world around you?</li> <li>• How are you being called to join Jesus in his kingdom building activity in the world? What commitment are you willing to make to respond to God’s call?</li> </ul> <p><b>FOR PASTORS / MINISTRY LEADERS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How has God used you to help those you lead to embrace their calling to evangelize, disciple, and engage in God’s kingdom building activity in the world?</li> <li>• In what new ways do you sense being called to help those you lead embrace mission and discipleship? What commitment are you willing to make to respond to God’s call?</li> </ul> <p><b>COMMITMENT / BLESSING:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What sin or obstacle is standing in the way from embracing God’s call to evangelize, disciple, and engage in God’s kingdom building activity?</li> <li>• How can we pray for, encourage, and support one another?</li> </ul> |
| <b>Affirmation:</b>  | <p>Take a moment to affirm each member of the group. Encourage one another in your commitments, acknowledge shared struggles, and declare forgiveness in Jesus’ name when appropriate. Take this time to identify strengths. It may be helpful to complete this sentence: “What I see in you is...”</p>   |
| <b>Prayer:</b>       | <p>Groups determine for themselves how to pray for one another. One simple model of prayer to follow is T-S-P:</p> <p>T - THANKS: Give thanks and praise to God for all that is good and wonderful and for all the blessings of life, big and small.</p> <p>S - SORRY: Offer confession to God for the sin and brokenness that needs forgiveness and reconciliation.</p> <p>P - PLEASE: Ask for whatever it is that you, your group, your families, your church, and your world needs in God’s will.</p>  |
| <b>Next Meeting:</b> | <p>Make a commitment to meet again and establish time and place.</p>  |