

TEMPLATE FOR STRUCTURING YOUR COMMUNITY GROUPS

The ingredients that should make up a Community Group are: socialize, study, support, share, and serve.

Below is a template that covers each of these aspects. You do not have to follow this exactly but aim to incorporate all 5 S's into your group. Every group should plan on meeting no longer than an hour and a half, unless you have something special planned. Honor one another by starting and ending on time.

WEEK 1 OF EACH MONTH | SPIRITUAL DISCUSSION

SOCIALIZE – Start with a snack and 15-20 minutes of informal socializing. You can also plan an ice-breaker question. This is great for warming everyone up for discussion.

STUDY – Open with prayer and begin the discussion time (use discussion guide for creating rich conversions).

SUPPORT & SHARE – Spend the last 20-30 minutes praying for one another. This can be done as one big group or split with men and women meeting separately. Mix it up from time to time. When you pray, use the effective prayer guide for a dynamic prayer time together. Pray for individuals you are investing in and inviting to the next appropriate event.

WEEK 2 OF EACH MONTH | DINNER

SOCIALIZE & SUPPORT – Share a meal together. This can be potluck or take out (with everyone pitching in to pay for it). If the host home isn't conducive for this, pick an alternative home. Building relationship while breaking bread is the goal.

- During your meal, make intentional time for discussion and sharing.
- Another option is to take communion with one another.

WEEK 3 OF EACH MONTH | SPIRITUAL DISCUSSION (SAME AS WEEK 1)

WEEK 4 OF EACH MONTH | NIGHT OUT / SERVICE PROJECT

SOCIALIZE – If applicable, have either the ladies or men stay at the host home while the others enjoy a night out, and then switch it for the next month. Going out ideas: bowling, dinner, laser tag, TopGolf, escape room, manicures, coffee/dessert. Choose an activity that promotes bonding. Staying in ideas: board games, card games, sharing a meal, gender-specific discussion about a certain topic.

SERVE– Pick a local outreach event for your group to help with. Ideas include helping with Wildwood, Fall Fest, Eggstravaganza, Dorm Move In Day for LSU students, or applying for a Go Grant and hosting a block party. We will plan to keep opportunities in front of groups in the future.

WEEK 5 (IF THERE IS ONE) | YOUR CHOICE

Format this night however you like. Please don't take this night off. Make it a point to meet every week of a semester in order to maintain a strong community.

