



# GRACE

## COMMUNITY CHURCH

### First Night Agenda

#### Goals of the First Meeting

- Rekindle relationships and meet new members
- Clarify your group's direction / expectations / commitments using the covenant
- Briefly discuss the sermon topic (if there is time)
- Pray for the building of relationships and spiritual growth of the group

#### Items Needed for the First Meeting

- Dinner / dessert plans decided
- Life Group Covenants: small ones to handout and a large one for everyone to sign
- Name-tags (host should write them out ahead of time)

#### Contact Your Group in Advance

- Contact all members one week before the first meeting to welcome them to the group
  - You can check your roster online to see all group members and their contact information.
- Inform them of the location and time of your group, as well as any entrees to bring for dinner

### 3 Essential Parts of Your Meeting

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#### #1 Welcome, mingle and talk while you eat

*Leadership Tip – Studies show that the first 7 seconds a person spends in a room can make or break the remainder of their experience in that room.*

- Make sure people are greeted when they arrive
- Have drinks available when people arrive
- Upbeat music playing
- House cleaned, phone off if possible

#### #2 Think through the uniqueness of your first group discussion

- GOING OVER THE COVENANT IS CRUCIAL
- Let people know your meeting is going to start in about 5 minutes



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- Why it is unique – getting to know each other, setting expectations
  - a) Sharing
    - **Refer to homework** – Take time to do a few of the getting to know you questions
    - **Sharing guidelines** – Explain the purpose of sharing exercises: Getting to know one another casually in (new groups) or reacquainting with each other (continuing groups)
    - **Note to returning leaders** – feel free to adapt the sharing exercises based on the number of new members. All groups are encouraged to do some of the getting to know me questions
  - b) Worship (optional)
  - c) THE COVENANT – SET THE EXPECTATIONS AND VISION
    - Everything rises and falls on how this is communicated
    - Distribute the Covenant
    - Go over the Covenant (see Leader's Guide to Covenant)
    - MAKE PLANS FOR YOUR SOCIAL
  - d) Prayer
    - For New groups... Introduce the idea of Topical Prayer*
      - Everyone participates
      - Brief, one topic at a time
      - Pray as many times as you want
      - Ask your host to close in a brief prayer dedicating the next quarter to God
    - For Continuing groups...*
      - You are encouraged to do something (prayer booklet or sheet) that will help people record their prayer requests and answers to prayer during the quarter (refer to leader audio)

### **#3 Know that your dessert conversations are just as important as your meeting discussions**

*Leadership Tip – Never underestimate the significance of the time after the meeting. It is key to connect with people and find out more what people are all about.*

