

Group Leader Notes

Each week, we will be looking at relationships, why they matter and how we can get better at relating to one another. The *Discussion Guides* are a tool to aid you in leading your group. They are designed to give insights and suggested discussion points that you can use and adapt to the needs of your group. Decide in advance which ones would be most valuable to use for your group and don't feel like you have to cover every one.

The *Discussion Guides* are an addition to the weekly messages. They are meant to help us dive a little deeper into the topics covered each week. There will be an opportunity for group members to share their insights from that week's Sunday message. Encourage your group to take notes during the Sunday service and bring insights with them each week to your group meeting!

Personal applications are an important part of group life. As your group members share their stories, take time to encourage and lead them toward Scriptures that will help them to move forward in their journey. Setting goals, making plans for action, and asking questions for follow-up will help solidify ways they can continue to grow spiritually. Helping others to move forward faith is one way we help *strengthen people for life*!

Be sure to pray for your group members as you prepare each week. Ask the Lord to give you wisdom, to open hearts and minds, and to help you as you lead your group.

Thank you for stepping up to lead – we are thankful for YOU!

Messages:

- Sept. 10 Why Relationships Matter
- Sept. 17 To Build or Not to Build
- Sept. 24 What Makes a Marriage?
- Oct. 1 Recovering Your Relationship
- Oct. 8 Family Life Part I Principles for Parenting
- Oct. 15 Family Life Part II Building Healthy Family Culture

Suggested group meeting structure:

Welcome

- We recommend sharing a light meal or snack together to encourage conversation and build community.
- Consider having an icebreaker or a time to get to know one another. Have everyone go around, introduce themselves, share what they do for work or what hobbies they enjoy!

Celebrate and Share WINS

Take a few moments to celebrate WINS – give everyone an opportunity to share how God showed up and how they were blessed. Celebrating wins helps us remember to be thankful, to recognize that God is always doing something and it encourages the whole group. It can be something simple or an answered prayer. Romans 1:12 reminds us of this important part of relationships: When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. (NLT)

Message Discussion & Questions

- Be prepared ahead of time with what points you want to cover with your group. As group leader, you can lead the discussion and help moderate to keep the discussion on track.
- Share any insights from the message that spoke to you and how it applies to your relationships.
- Next Steps: What are some steps you can take that will help strengthen your relationships?
- **Prayer:** Divide into smaller groups or prayer partners (male with male, female with female) and take time to share and pray over one key prayer request for the week.