

2008-2009 Small Group Leader Guide

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Hopefully this packet will be a useful resource to you as you begin to plan your first groups. This isn't an exhaustive list of everything that can be done, so feel free to be creative and experiment in different ways to connect with and lead your group. Need some more ideas? Search our [resources](#) or [contact us](#).

Before the First Group Meeting:

Get your list of students in your group as soon as it is available. This will help you prepare and pray for those students who have joined your group. Some leaders like to give these group members a call before to personally invite them to the group. Other group leaders have gone door to door and introduced themselves, often giving out flyers telling where the group will meet and contact info. These could be combined with a funny picture or put onto a fridge magnet. Be creative!

Great Places to Go for a First Small Group:

- Ice Cream Shop
- Doughnut Store
- Coffee Shop
- Bowling Alley

Ice Breaker Ideas:

1. Have everyone ask a random question and put it in a bag. Mix them up, and pass the bag around to all group members. Each member takes a question out and answers it.
2. Stand your group in a circle. Throw a ball to a small group member, saying their name. Have them throw the ball to another person, who hasn't received the ball yet, saying their name. Tell your group to remember who they threw it to, and who threw it to them. After everyone has had the ball, it should return to you. Now repeat the same pattern, having everyone say each other's names. Compete for best time, add balls, or try it in reverse order for a challenge.
3. Have a name duel. Divide your group in two teams. Rig a way to have a sheet held up between the two teams. Each team elects someone to stand near the sheet on their side. Drop the sheet, and the first dueler to say the others name wins, and gets to take the losing dueler to their team. The game ends when one team has all the players.
4. Have each group member tell two true things and a lie about themselves. The group's job is to guess which was the lie.
5. Have each person interview someone else in the group. After the interviews, have everyone introduce the other person to the group. This might be good if you have a really mellow group.

Possible Small Group Schedule:

7:00pm – Everyone gathers, chat, catch up, eat snacks

7:10pm – Ice breaker, get to know you things, etc.

7:30pm – Pows + Wows: Everyone shares something good(wow) and bad(pow) about their week

7:50pm – Bible study/issue discussion. Guide your group with questions and facilitate a discussion

8:15pm – Wrap up, tell about upcoming events, Prayer requests, find out who will bring next week's snack

8:30pm – Go home or Hangout!

How to Plan a Bible Study:

1. Pray for the discussion, group, interactions, and the planning of the study.
2. Read passage or review the topic several times.
3. Prepare questions. Consider three different types of questions that help facilitate discussion:
 1. Observation Questions: What's going on? – These questions help review the passage to get everyone on the same page with what is happening.
 2. Interpretation Questions: What does this mean? Why does it happen? – These questions get into the understanding of the passage and reading into it to figure out the meaning.
 3. Application Questions: What does this mean in relation to my life? – These questions help us understand what to do with what we've looked at. "How do we do this on campus?"
4. Plan the activities to lead up to, and conclude the study.
5. Pray, and be ready for things to change last minute. As the discussion goes on, feel free to ask questions that you didn't prepare before hand, and to not ask some that you did. Be flexible!

How to Get More Help:

Contact us: stead@pcusacollege.org or cindy@pcusacollege.org