

Sojourners Small Group Check-Up

Sheridan's Sojourner small groups vary in makeup and in duration. Some have been together for several years, others for only several months. As part of the normal evaluation process, it is time for each group to consider its growth as a group. Below are five areas to consider when evaluating your group experience. Take a few moments individually to consider how your group is growing together using the scale below. Discuss your responses as a group. List and celebrate the things your group is doing well and form an action plan for growth in the areas in which your group agrees it would like to improve. Each individual contributes to the health and growth of the group as a whole. Every group will have its own personality—while the examples listed represent proven strategies for healthy small groups this is by no means a comprehensive list. Please share your own ideas and experiences, especially if they differ from what is listed here.

Evaluation Scale:

- 3 - Doing well; pleased with results
- 2 - Going in the right direction; see areas for improvement
- 1 - Struggling; need help

Our Group is...

SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES

Acts 2:42-47

All group members share responsibility in accomplishing group tasks, depending upon their gifts and abilities, as outlined in the small group agreement. None of the group's members are burdened by an unfair share of the duties. These duties include: facilitating discussions, leading opening or closing prayer, hosting the group in your home, providing refreshments, organizing social or service activities, writing notes and cards to group members, visiting members who are ill or have needs, offering intercessory prayer for group members, keeping a list of members' birthdays, emailing updates and/or messages of encouragement, following up with members who have missed a meeting or social activity.

Comments:

OFFERING HOSPITALITY

1 Peter 4:8-9

Members are comfortable both hosting and visiting in the home setting. All participants feel included and accepted. Seating arrangements and lighting are conducive to discussion and fellowship. Distractions are minimal (phone, noise, children, pets, etc.) Group members respect the group-chosen time constraints by arriving and departing on time. Introductions are made whenever new people join the group.

Comments:

CONNECTING EACH SESSION

Romans 12:1-3

The time spent socializing, sharing joys and concerns, and discussing the biblical content is appropriately balanced. During the discussion, there is an acceptable balance between teaching and group dialogue. The discussion is focused; however, it is also flexible when a need arises. Members spend group discussion time unselfishly, allowing all members to participate in the discussions. The sessions begin and end on time. The group is a safe place where all members may share their thoughts and feelings in a transparent manner.

Comments:

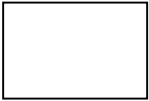


MATURING SPIRITUALLY

Ephesians 6:18; 1 Peter 4:10

Group members are developing their spiritual disciplines and relationship with God. During the week they are thanking God for each member of the group and praying for the joys and concerns that have been shared. They are participating in the church through the use of their spiritual gifts, and by giving of their material resources. The group seeks out opportunities to serve together inside and outside the walls of the church.

Comments:



GROWING RELATIONALLY

Matthew 22:37-39

Group members are actively building relationships with each other inside and outside of the group setting. Members feel increasingly comfortable sharing their real needs for prayer and support. They offer ongoing encouragement and accountability to one another for growing spiritually and for serving in harmony with God-given gifts, talents, and abilities. Members actively seek opportunities to assist other members of the group in accomplishing group tasks and goals.

Comments:

CELEBRATING OUR STRENGTHS:

What are the things your group is doing especially well?

DEVELOPING OUR ACTION PLAN FOR GROWTH:

What are the areas in which your group has room to grow? Have each individual make a commitment regarding one thing he or she will do to help achieve this improvement:

Host: _____ Date: _____