

It's important to start each group with a time of self preparation (prior to group time). Start off with **prayer**. Invite the Holy Spirit, **pray** for open hearts/minds, and **pray** over the venue. **Pray** with your apprentice if possible (this is helpful in getting your own mind and heart focused).

Group Time

- Start Time - Begin promptly with **prayer** committing the time to God and requesting acceptance of His Word and obedience to it.
- Spend 5 minutes on collecting the previous week's homework assignments
- Spend 5-10 minutes on icebreaker question(s) get to know one another.
- Spend 5 minutes on looking up the weeks chapter verse in the Bible and ask a volunteer to read it. Get them comfortable in using their Bible! Then have someone **pray** over the subject matter to be discussed.
- Spend the next 20 minutes on "State of our Souls" (see appendix 5 points 4 & 5). You can also set this up with a specific question or two from pages 236 - 237, or you may select or create a question that may tie in to the subject matter of the chapter.
THIS IS WHERE ACCOUNTABILITY IS BEING MODELED. In early meetings the group leader specifically needs to speak his own state first, setting the example of transparency. This is a great opportunity for the leader and apprentice to demonstrate an accountability conversation. This is also a time for men to take note of the **prayer** needed for their brothers. Don't overlook the opportunity to pause and **praise** God or to gather around a brother and **pray** for his need. Be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and respond. REMEMBER . . . it's His agenda, not ours.
- Spend 5 minutes flex time. Flex time can be used for sharing something from your own life that pertains to this weeks study.
- Use the next 20 minutes sharing chapter highlights. What stood out most to them in their reading? What passages spoke to them and what new actions might they now take?
- Spend 10 minutes in reviewing the chapter's "Courageous Challenge" experiences. Greatly encourage those who are completing them and sharing their experiences with the group. Take private note of those not completing challenges and privately, outside of meeting, make inquiry as to what is preventing them. Be prepared to explain all the benefits that come from participating in the challenge.
- Allow 30 minutes to review the chapter discussion question. Encourage those who have written out their answers and taking private note of those who have not and privately, outside of meeting, make inquiry as to what is preventing them. Be prepared to explain how learning is enhanced and how they will be better able to disciple others with the help of their notes.
- Spend 5 minutes in assigning homework and make any necessary announcements
- The last 10 minutes: End every meeting with **prayer** suited to the state of each person present. There are many variations of this that are fine as long as the real needs of the men present are the **prayers** being lifted up.

THIS IS ONLY A SAMPLE. HOW YOU CONDUCT THE MEETING IS BETWEEN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU. FLEXIBILITY AND YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES ARE KEY. **PRAYER** IS POWER AND REQUIRES OUR PRIMARY ATTENTION. **DON'T LET THE TIME FOR PRAYER BE COMPROMISED!**

That adds up to 2 hours! We need to honor the time men are investing. After two hours time, men who have to go can and those desiring to stay can enjoy continued fellowship.