

D-Group Ministries

First four meetings suggested outlines

Initial Contact: (Within 48 hours of receiving your group members' information)

- **The goal of this contact is to introduce yourself and set up an initial meeting time for the group.** This meeting might only be 15—20 minutes long. Try to find a time within a few days of the initial contact when everyone can meet, even if it's only for a brief amount of time. You can suggest meeting before or after chapel; before or after Kaleo; for lunch; for coffee; in a dorm lobby; etc.
- When you make initial contact with your group members, it is best to either call or try to meet face-to-face by visiting him/her in their room, apartment, etc. Leave a message on their phone or door if they are not available.
- You might also send an email that simply introduces yourself as their leader.
- Be sure to give each person **your** contact information so they are able to call or email you with any questions before your initial group meeting.
- Don't count on your members calling you back...please be persistent and try to make this initial contact, it is crucial because it establishes an early sense of belonging and shows your interest in having them as part of the group.
- Choose a time and location for your initial group meeting. Invite each member to be present and bring their schedule/calendar so you can choose a regular meeting time.

Initial Group Meeting: (Within 5 days of making initial contact with each member)

- **The goal of this time is for group members to meet one another and choose a consistent day and time to meet on a weekly basis.**
- This will provide an opportunity for each member of the group to meet one another. Introduce yourself and allow each member a chance to introduce themselves.
- Ask each member to review the contact information you have for them and make any corrections. Be certain they have your correct contact information.
- **Choose a day, time, and location for your 2nd meeting.** It is a good idea to have this meeting on the day and time that your group chooses to meet on a regular basis. Be sure to set a start and end time for the meeting so everyone knows what they are committing to. While the location may change, establishing a set day and time helps tremendously. **This can be discouraging as schedules may be hard to match up. Be in PRAYER about this issue, asking the Lord to carve out a specific time for your group to meet.**
- *If there is someone in your group who can't commit to the day/ time the majority of your group can meet, you may have to encourage them to contact our office and try to match up with another group.*
- Choose a location for the 2nd Group Meeting that will enable everyone to attend easily and choose a place where you can get to know one another without major interruptions or distractions.
- *2-3 days after this initial meeting, contact each member to remind them of the day, time, and location of next meeting.*

2nd Group Meeting (Within 1 week of initial meeting)

- **The goal of this meeting is for members to get to know one another better.**
- Welcome members and open in prayer, thanking God for each member and asking His blessing on your time together.
- Explain to the group that this meeting is designed to help you all get to know one another by answering a few questions about yourselves. You as the leader should open the sharing

time by telling a bit about yourself. You as the leader set the precedence here—limit your response so that everyone will have an opportunity to share. Good opening questions for this time are:

1. “What are 3-5 key things about your life that will help us get to know you?”
 2. “How would the people who know you best describe you?”
 3. “If you had to compare your life to a movie, which movie would it be and why?”
 4. “Describe a time when God became more than a name to you...”
 5. “If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?”
 6. “Describe a person who has greatly impacted your life...”
- After you share, invite anyone else who is comfortable to share. Continue inviting each member to respond to this question until everyone has had an opportunity.
 - If your members all get to respond to the question you chose, ask another and, again, start the sharing and invite each member to respond.
 - **Be sure you end at the time you specified. If there are still members who haven’t had an opportunity to share, they will open your next group meeting by answering the question.**
 - Thank members for being present and remind them of the next meeting. For the 3rd meeting, we recommend that you GO SOMEWHERE—try to meet somewhere other than a dorm room—choose this location while the group is together.
 - *Contact each member by a visit, phone call, or email to remind them on the 3rd meeting and ask how you could be praying for them.*

3rd Meeting: (1 week after 2nd meeting)

- **The goal of this meeting is to establish routine in your meeting time and form a sense of community in the group.**
- Again, we suggest going somewhere other than a dorm room for this meeting. You might want to meet for coffee, go out for a meal, ice cream, donuts, or even just meet outdoors.
- Utilize this meeting as an opportunity to get to know members on a more informal level. Ask about the classes they are taking, jobs, boyfriends/ girlfriends, roommates, etc.
- Get to know each other by answering:
 1. Why did you sign up for D-Groups?
 2. Have they been part of a small group before?
 3. What were they hoping to get out of the D-Group experience?
 4. Is there something that we can be praying for you about?

4th Meeting:

- **The goal of this meeting is to begin to identify member expectations and define what your D-Group will look like.**
- Review together why you each joined a D-Group and what you were hoping to get out of it.
- Discuss the 5 aspects of D-Groups and identify which ones are your group’s top priorities:
 1. Accountability
 2. Bible Study
 3. Fellowship
 4. Prayer
 5. Service
- Be prepared to discuss possible resources (found in notebook or other ideas).
- Discuss and complete D-Group Covenant together.
- Pray for God’s grace to help you keep your covenant as a group and as individuals.
- Ask how you can be praying for one another throughout the next week.