



Topic Summary

As a leader, it is your responsibility to set the direction for your group from the start. Though you'll have 2-3 weeks of buffer time while you and your guys share testimonies, soon it will be time to make decisions about how to structure the delivery of your curriculum, establish a stable meeting time, and fall into a weekly rhythm of confession, Scripture study, and prayer.

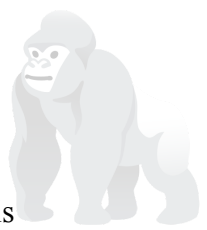
It is a good idea to begin now to spend some time reflecting on your goals and plans for your group. If these are very vague or if this is the first time you've really seriously thought about them, that's not only okay but—dare I say—normal!

Questions

- What you value is key when it comes to deciding how you want to structure your group. What are a few core values you hope your group reflects? For example, do you value fun and banter? Or do you hope for a more serious tone? Is scripture engagement and discussion most important or is vulnerability and confession what you hope to emphasize?
- What are you currently thinking about doing with your group when it comes to curriculum? Do you have specific resources you hope to use or just more of a general direction or topic you hope to engage with?
- How do you plan to go about implementing confession into your group? Do you have any specific ideas or strategies in that regard? What about other accountability tools like prayer partners or one-on-one meals?

Suggestions

- Plan a few weeks in advance. If you can know what you want to bring to your group from a content standpoint 2-3 weeks ahead of time it'll make things feel a lot smoother and more prepared. Choosing one book or supplemental resource to spend a few weeks in can be particularly helpful in this regard.
- Get creative. Even if you're following a set curriculum, it can be helpful to change things up from the regular sermon or bible passage routine to keep things interesting. Music, art, activities, and guest speakers are all ways to break from your group's regular flow.
- Ask your group what they need. What would they like to go over? What do they need from you and from the group? Questions like these can give you a concrete direction to pursue.
- Consider asking these types of questions: Have you been in a positively impactful small group before? What made it meaningful for you? What were specific things the leader did?



- What makes a small group great? What are your hopes and expectations for this group?
- What makes a small group terrible? What do we want to avoid before we get started?
- What are things we should all commit to as a result of what was shared today?
- What is the most important thing we would know about you if we lived with you for a year?
- After you have heard and noted down their thoughts to the questions you've asked them, give them your vision for the group. I wouldn't start with this because people are often too inclined to just agree with the leader without actually putting their own thoughts into words. But have this ready because especially freshmen may not have an idea of what they want and it's good for you to know what you want/how you want to lead! Learning the role people play outside of their small group and in real life matters most here. A great question is, "if you have past small group experience, what stuck and carried with you outside the small group time and into your role in your community as a roommate? As a son or daughter? As an employee? What did you take with you?"