

PLAN TO HAVE A MEAL TOGETHER WITH YOUR GROUP THE FIRST WEEK AND THEN TAKE SOME TIME TO REVIEW PLANS FOR THE COMMUNITY GROUP TRIMESTER AND REVIEW THE GOALS OF COMMUNITY GROUPS.

POSSIBLE ICEBREAKER (good to discuss over dinner)

- What did Easter look like for you growing up?

COMMUNITY GROUP OVERVIEW

- **Review ABC's: Purpose of Community Groups:** Apply the Bible, Build Relationships, Care for Each Other
- **Review Group Agreement:** <http://bit.ly/CGAgreement> (See below). Read and ask if anyone has any questions.
- **Discuss Volunteer Schedule for snacks, childcare, hosting, and facilitation.** Bring a preassigned volunteer schedule if possible: www.northridgeleaders.com/volunteer-schedule-template
 - Other potential volunteer roles include: Sending weekly emails, Organizing socials or serving projects, tracking prayer requests.
- **Discuss starting and ending time and trimester schedule.**
 - Group trimester goes 8 weeks from April 1 – May 26.
 - Let's honor each other by starting on time and agreeing about how to handle the ending time. Generally it is best to have a hard ending but let people know they can stay to hang out afterwards.
- **Explain how a normal Community Group night will look for those who are new to groups and to make sure everyone in group is on the same page.**
 - Social time (10-20 minutes)
 - Ice Breaker (10 minutes)
 - Sermon Discussion (30-40 minutes)
 - Group Prayer Time, Usually in gendered groups (30-45 minutes)
 - Hangout/Head home
- **Plan to collect and share contact information for group members**

GROUP AGREEMENT

1. I will make this 8-week group trimester a priority by attending weekly and participating openly in group discussion. I will call ahead if I am going to be absent or late.
2. I will strive to build authentic relationships with those in this group by showing care, providing encouragement and praying for their needs. I will keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group.
3. I will regularly attend services at Northridge and contribute to the ministry of the church through my attendance and inviting of others with a desire to see this group multiply down the road.
4. I will explore honestly my next steps for spiritual growth.

GROWTH GOALS

- **What is a next step in your faith you want to take this year?** Take some time to discuss growth goals you each want to set this trimester and ask each other about them throughout the next 8 weeks.
- **See Growth Goal ideas at the bottom of the next page.**

If your group has already met to discuss these details or had a meal together, the sermon discussion questions are included on the next page. We would suggest skipping sermon discussion the first week if you are covering the beginning of trimester details.

PLEASE READ BEFORE LEADING DISCUSSION

- **Recommended questions are highlighted in bold, but select 5 or 6 questions you think will work best for your group discussion. You likely won't have time to discuss all of the questions so choose which questions you will ask ahead of time and make sure to provide plenty of time to focus on the application questions.**
- **Feel free to edit or reword questions to best fit your group.**
- **You may want to print out copies of this document for everyone so they can follow along with the questions as you read them.**
- **Check out this Facilitation Guide (<http://bit.ly/CGFacilitationGuide>) for tips on leading good discussions.**

ICEBREAKER (5-10 Minutes)

- **Share your name and answer the following icebreaker:**
 - **What did Easter look like for you growing up?**

OPENING THE DISCUSSION (5-10 Minutes)

- As you reflect back on Sunday's sermon, what scripture passage, question, statement, story or insight most challenged or encouraged you?
- **When was a time in your life when the reality of Jesus' death and resurrection first sunk in, clicked with, or overwhelmed you?**

DIGGING DEEPER (10 Minutes)

- Read John 3:16 about God setting the foundation and standard of generosity.
 - Is it possible to be generous if we don't understand this?
- Read Romans 3:23 and 6:23.
 - What keeps us from gripping the reality of these verses?
- **Read John 19:16-19 and Luke 24:1-6. In these verses Jesus' followers went from losing all hope to having undeniable hope.**
 - **If you were to try to convince others about how Jesus' resurrection gives us hope today, what would you say?**

APPLYING IT (10 Minutes)

- **Where in your life do you struggle to have hope, and how might the resurrection give you hope in that situation?**
- **What practical differences should Jesus' death and resurrection make for how you live?**

GROWTH GOALS: (Probably best to discuss in your prayer group)

- **What is a next step in your faith you want to take in the next few months? Here are some ideas or you could add your own:**
 - Read a chapter of the Bible every day.
 - Commit to attend Community Group every week.
 - Begin or increase level of volunteering at Northridge.
 - Memorize (__number of) verses from the Bible.
 - Attend the Starting Point group on Sunday's at Northridge.
 - Get baptized.
 - Become a Northridge Church member.
 - Invite "_____ name" to church.
 - Start giving or increase percentage of income I give financially to church.
 - Read a good Christian book (Ask Group Leader or Staff for recommendations)
 - Connect with a friend weekly/daily to keep you accountable with good/bad habits.