

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)

1. **What has been your highlight of the summer?**

COMMUNITY GROUP OVERVIEW

2. **Review ABC's: Purpose of Community Groups:** Apply the Bible, Build Relationships, Care for Each Other
3. **Review Group Agreement:** <http://bit.ly/CGAgreement> (See below). Read and ask if anyone has any questions.
4. **Discuss Volunteer Schedule for snacks, childcare, hosting, and facilitation.** Bring a preassigned volunteer schedule if possible: www.NorthridgeLeaders.com/volunteer-schedule-template
 - o Other potential volunteer roles include: Sending weekly emails, Organizing socials or serving projects, tracking prayer requests
5. **Discuss starting and ending time and trimester schedule.**
 - o Group trimester goes from September 16th – November 17th
 - o 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.
6. **Explain how a normal Community Group night will look for those who are new to groups.**
 - o Social time (10-20 minutes)
 - o Ice Breaker (10 minutes)
 - o Sermon Discussion (30-40 minutes)
 - o Group Prayer Time, Usually in gendered groups (30-45 minutes)
 - o Hangout/Head home
7. **Plan to collect and share contact information for group members**

GROUP AGREEMENT

1. **I will make this 9-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.**

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)

1. Share your name and answer one the following question:
 - What is something people might be surprised to learn about you if they don't know you well?

OPENING THE DISCUSSION (5-10 Minutes)

2. As you reflect back on Sunday's sermon what Bible verse, question, statement, story or idea most challenged or encouraged you?
3. What are some ways our culture, or even Christian culture, falls into the trap of focusing on the outward rather than of the inward?

DIGGING DEEPER (10 Minutes)

4. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.
 - What do you find most challenging or encouraging when you read this passage?
5. Read 1 Samuel 16:6-7.
 - How do we know if we care too little or too much about our outward appearance?
6. Read Proverbs 4:23. How might we go about guarding our heart?

APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes) – May be good to discuss this in prayer time.

7. What aspect of your character might need to change to grow in influence for God?

GROWTH GOALS:

- What is a next step in your faith you want to take this year? Here are some ideas:
 - Read a chapter of the Bible every day.
 - Commit to attend Community Group every week.
 - Begin a volunteer role at Northridge.
 - Increase my volunteer level 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 "insert name" to church.
 - Increase the percentage of my income I give to church.
 - Read a good Christian book.
 - Connect with a friend weekly/daily to keep you accountable with good/bad habits.