

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 was a highlight for you from this holiday season?**

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 January 12th – March 21st (10 Weeks)
 - 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 10-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.**

The Critic

You Kiss Your Mother With That Mouth?!, Ephesians 4:29

January 12, 2020

Community Group Discussion Questions

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 the following question:
 - What was a highlight for you from this holiday season?

OPENING THE DISCUSSION (5-10 Minutes) – Have someone recap the message in about a minute or two and then ask the following questions:

2. **What is one statement, question, Bible verse, or story from this sermon that you found most challenging or thought provoking?**
3. Where do you find yourself being the most critical?
4. Drew shared 3 reasons why we find fault in others: 1. We are full of pride. 2. We are insecure. 3. We don't understand.
 - Which of these is most common for you?
 - What else would you add to the list?

DIGGING DEEPER (10 Minutes) – *ask everyone to follow along in their Bible or Bible app.*

5. **Read Ephesians 4:29.**
 - **Using this verse as a filter, what are some examples of how our communication should change?**
6. Read Proverbs 12:18.
 - When is a time you experienced your words or someone else's bring hurt or healing?

APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes)

7. **In what relationship or situation do you need to offer words of hope instead of criticism? What can you commit to do to offer encouragement?**

GROWTH GOALS: (Bring Growth Goal Cards or [Print Growth Goal Forms](#) To Pass Out)

- **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.
 - Memorize (__number of) verses from the Bible.
 - Attend the Starting Point group on Sunday's at Northridge.
 - Get baptized.
 - Invite "insert name" to church.
 - Read a good Christian book.
 - Connect with a friend weekly/daily to keep you accountable with good/bad habits.