Small Group Format:

Dynamic and Expectations for a meeting:

-Casual start to allow people time to hang and connect with others but please END at the same time every week to respect peoples time and allow those to leave who need to get home. 7:00- 9:00 is an average group time.
- The group takes turn sharing - don't dominate the conversation- don't interrupt!
- Not a teaching - we are sharing life together and exploring topical/scriptural discussion
- Not a group where we fix other people's issues- We pray for each other! We don't take turns giving our solutions to your problems!
- We encourage honesty and create a safe place to share- It may be necessary from time to time to ask people to respect others privacy and not share things with others outside the group.

STRUCTURE: (these times are totally suggestive! As your group dynamic develops you'll be able to adjust as appropriate)
15-20 mins   Arrival/ Hang-time
- Have some refreshments ready -I.E. Tea, Coffee, Chips, Cookies.. etc. etc.. (whatever!)
- Allow time for people to get to know each other- this time will get better and better as people start to know/enjoy each others company. Initiate conversations with new people! Have icebreakers ready if you need some help starting convo.

30-45 mins   Discussion - DO NOT BE AFRAID of silence!!
DO NOT BE AFRAID of honesty or disagreements. Allow room for inquiry.

Ask good question- bring up provoking points and allow others to give input.
Use sermon notes to either briefly recap topics/points or read certain quotes that stood out.
What stands out to you as resoundingly true? Did you disagree with anything?
What additional thoughts/ scriptures has it brought to the surface?
What was most challenging about it?
What personal experiences resound/affirm/ or *contrast* with this topic?

15 mins   Prayer/Sharing:
What can we be praying for each other about?
Major news/difficulty/struggle?
-Never force a person to pray or share
Do not go around the circle in prayer or sharing for that reason- leave it open.

CLOSE -   If you want- Ask someone to start praying, let everyone know that anyone can pray if they want, then you close it. (OR you can just open and close it yourself depending on time)

- TRY To END the structured group on time so those who need to leave can go without feeling obtrusive to the group.
- if your able- invite people to hang out afterwards!

OTHER STRUCTURAL NOTES: we are very flexible with how often these groups meet and the dynamic you'd like to create as a community.

    - If someone plays an instrument some groups like to sing a few songs at the beginning
    - MEETING schedules can vary!
        - you could meet weekly, every other week.
        - you could do monthly potlucks, monthly outings, monthly outreach projects, game nights, etc etc.
        - ONE of the goals is to create an atmosphere of DOING LIFE TOGETHER where relationships can flourish and encourage each other- this can look different!

RESOURCES:

SMALL GROUP DYNAMIC TRAINING VIDEO:

This training video is for Alpha- which is designed for nonbelievers - however, the goal of: creating an open honest dynamic, drawing people out, creating a safe space to be known is the undercurrent of the small group dynamic we are trying to create.

https://player.vimeo.com/video/214170130

If you'd like to skip foward- go to mark 14:10- this is the group dynamic

THE APP! https://www.riverstonevineyard.com/churchapp

The App is extremely important when it comes to THOSE OUTSIDE being able to easily jump in to your group!
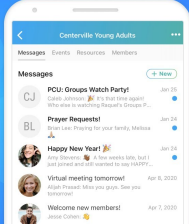
This means it's important for you to keep your **EVENT schedule updated in the APP!**

Our Website page on small groups will go directly to your group within the app.
This means - if someone is looking to jump in a group- they will see your meetings schedule inside the app.

- as people join- they need to be added in group inside the app- this is how we communicate with the group.
- They can request to join- or as the leader- you can add them.
- You need to create the schedule of events inside the group- this way- if someone wants to join they can see when you are meeting.
- If you need to cancel- you need to cancel the event in the app!

SEE tutorial video here:

How To

Manage Your Group on Church Center as A Group Leader

4-Video Series

GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE TO

Planning Center

groups

Part 1: Introduction