

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) About Starting a Group

HOW BIG SHOULD MY GROUP BE?

The average small group size is 8-12 people, but every group is different. One of the reasons we value Group Coleaders at New Song, is that they help assure that at least two people will be present at each meeting. *Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them. -Matthew 18:20*

We want group members to feel comfortable in the space you meet. If your group outgrows your meeting space, reach out to your Groups Coordinator if you need ideas on how to assure continued connection of all your group members.

WHEN SHOULD MY GROUP MEET?

We believe there is a time and place for whatever group the Lord has put on your heart to lead. Weekday evenings, after working hours, are popular group meeting times, but there also exist healthy small groups that meet outside of that popular time spot. Talk with your Group Coleader and most importantly, listen to the Holy Spirit as your guide for a time that will reach others well.

WHERE SHOULD MY GROUP MEET?

Meeting at a home provides an intimate, comfortable, and safe environment for group members to feel more apt to be real and transparent; however, if meeting at a home is not an option for you and your Group Coleader, any space (coffee house, park, etc.) that allows your group to connect well and stay safe is a great space.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD MY GROUP MEET?

New Song Community, HIS and Men's Groups are all expected to meet a minimum of once monthly. You and your Group Coleader may up this frequency to every other week or even weekly, as you are able.

Consistency in frequency is crucial to assuring people keep coming to your small group. If you can create a good routine of meeting more regularly than once monthly, we believe you will develop a powerful Kingdom community within your group.

HOW LONG SHOULD EACH GROUP MEETING LAST?

We recommend that each group meeting last no longer than 1.5 hours. If a meeting runs long, be sure to value your group members' time by announcing that you recognize the set time has been met and that they are not expected to stay later.

WHAT SHOULD WE STUDY?

Whether the content studied be scripture, Table Talk questions (found on the New Song app), sermon series, Christian books, or devotionals, as long as it is in agreement with the character of God and His Word, it is permitted. To assure approval, if you decide to study something other than the Bible or a New Song sermon, run it by your Groups Coordinator first (contact info found in Welcome Letter of Starter Kit). We trust our group leaders to be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led as they guide their group, and with that, we give a lot of autonomy as to what they would like to study.

WHAT IF I CAN'T ANSWER A QUESTION IN MY GROUP?

As a Group Leader, it is important to remember that you are a facilitator not an answer machine. We do not expect you to have all the answers, nor should you think you do. In circumstances where you are not sure of an answer, work with your group members towards finding one in scripture. At New Song, we believe, "If it matters to you, it matters to God." Encourage the group member to pray over the question through the week as you do the same. We serve a God who longs to speak with us, sometimes we just need to listen.

If a question or circumstance arises that you think needs attention from New Song pastoral staff, please contact your Groups Coordinator.