

INTRODUCTION

Over the past seven sessions, you've learned that spiritual growth is evidenced by intimacy with God, community with insiders, and influence with outsiders.

You've also invested time sharing your stories and getting to know one another.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO COMMIT
TO CONTINUING AS A GROUP.**

In this final session, we'll review the values and goals in the **COMMUNITY GROUP AGREEMENT**. As a group, you'll work out the logistics of group meetings moving forward. This simple exercise is a great way to ensure that everyone's expectations are aligned.

If you decide not to move forward with your group, contact your leader by phone or email before the next meeting to let him or her know. If this group isn't a fit for you, don't worry about it. And don't give up on the idea of community.

All groups are different; there's one out there for you.

WEEKLY READING: COMMUNITY GROUP VALUES AND GOALS

A Community Group should provide a predictable environment where group members can pursue healthy relationships and spiritual growth.

Relationships

While prayer and discussion of curriculum are key elements, the driving force behind the group is the building of relationships.

Authenticity

The atmosphere should encourage openness and transparency among members. This is an environment where people should feel free to be themselves.

Confidentiality

For authenticity to occur, members must be able to trust that issues discussed within the group will not be shared outside the group.

Respect

Group members should never say anything that will embarrass their spouses or other members of the group.

Availability

A primary responsibility of the group is to prioritize specific relationships. This requires a willingness to be available to meet one another's needs.

Multiplication

Group members recognize that one of the goals of their group is to start a new group within the life cycle of the group. This allows others to experience the Community Group relationship.

MOVING FORWARD

Congratulations on finishing *Community: Starting Well in Your Small Group*. We hope that you've had a chance to get to know the other people in your group and to let them get to know you. We hope you've experienced the truth that *life really is better connected*.

We recommend that you make your next group meeting a social. Take a little time to just hang out and celebrate what you've experienced together over the past couple of months. Use some of the time to decide what you'll study next as a group.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35



The world is so empty if one thinks only of mountains, rivers and cities; but to know someone who thinks and feels with us, and who, though distant, is close to us in spirit, this makes the earth for us an inhabited garden.

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE