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group guidelines

If you are completing this Study in a group setting, the following guidelines will help keep meetings safe, focused and productive:

GROUP LOGISTICS

Appropriate group size. Ideally a group should consist of 4-6 people: a group leader and apprentice leader who have both previously completed the *Discover Discipleship Course*, and 3-4 new participants. If a group is larger, consider discussing key concepts from the lessons together, and then forming smaller break-out groups to discuss the questions.

Meet consistently. During the first meeting the group should agree upon a day/time each week for the meeting. Weekly meetings are ideal. Avoid routinely canceling meetings.

Plan the material. Decide each week how many days/lessons you will want to work on at the next meeting. It is recommended that you cover 3-5 lessons at each weekly group meeting.

Be prepared. Both the leader and participants should fully engage with each week's planned material, and answer all questions *before* the group meeting.

MEETING LOGISTICS

Meeting agenda. Begin each meeting by briefly connecting with everyone. Read the meeting ground rules (on the next page) and pray. Summarize lesson points, one lesson at a time, and allow ample time to discuss the lesson questions. The questions are key to the effectiveness of this study.

Group Prayer. End each group meeting with a time of extended prayer when possible. Worship together a few minutes and then pray for each other's needs. These times of prayer will most likely develop more after *Workbook 3: Discover Growth*.

Meeting length. Weekly meetings should typically last 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Make sure to always start and *end* the meeting on time. People might want to stay longer than originally planned, however, be mindful that members might have other obligations after the scheduled meeting time.

MEETING GROUND RULES

To help keep meetings focused, safe and productive, begin every meeting by reading these ground rules aloud.

- 1. I will commit to make group meetings and this study a priority by being prepared and being on time.** The group meeting is not the time to work on answers to questions. I understand the group meeting will be unproductive if I have not read the lessons and answered the questions before the group meeting.
- 2. I will maintain confidentiality.** What is said in the group stays in the group unless someone threatens to hurt themselves or others. In that case, appropriate people will be notified to ensure the safety of all parties involved.
- 3. I will refrain from gossiping about others during the group meeting.** I will keep my focus on my experiences and not on other people. I will leave others' names anonymous when sharing my negative personal experiences in the group setting.
- 4. I will be honest.** The purpose of this study is to give honest answers and work toward the study of God's truth. Everyone is here to discover God's truth together. We cannot discover truth until we ask questions and seek answers.
- 5. I will respect the other members of the group.** I will refrain from being on electronic devices, interrupting others and/or having side conversations.
- 6. I understand that my role is not to "save" or "fix" anyone else.** Together, our role is to continue to point each other toward Jesus and the truth of His teachings.

Go to the *Church Leader Resources* section of **www.discoverdiscipleship.com** for additional resources to assist with leading a productive group meeting.