

# A Note to Small Group Leaders

Fall 2009

Many of your groups have had a different kind of meeting schedule for the summer. We encourage you to resume your regular rhythm of meeting in September. Remember that fall is an especially good time to challenge your group members to be invitational, prayerfully considering who to invite to check out your small group.

Attached to this note is a resource to guide your meeting times in September. This two-week "Reconnect" curriculum is designed to help your group significantly connect and set the tone for further life sharing as you continue. It also will help to solidify your purpose as a group. Managing expectations in a group is an important part of leadership and certainly pays off as time goes on; this resource will help you to do that as well.

## Fall Calendar at a Glance

Week of September 13:

- Reconnect Week #1

Week of September 20:

- Reconnect Week #2

Week of September 27:

- Fall Kick off/Celebration of Leadership for all Small Group Leaders and Apprentices, Sunday at 4:45 p.m.
- Potential week to do a group social event

Week of October 4:

- KCC 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Attend as a group.
- Potential week to do a group social event

Week of October 11:

- *Crazy Love* series begins (continues through the third week in November)

# **Reconnect: Week #1**

**Reconnecting through life sharing:** This is more than a quick ice breaker. The following questions should take the majority of your group time. Set it up as an opportunity to really hear about what's going on in each other's lives. Encourage them to be transparent and to really listen to each other. Tell them you're going around the circle and want everyone to share their response to each question. You will go around the circle three times, one for each question. As the Spirit leads give opportunity for the group to respond to what people share (ask questions, give words of encouragement, etc.).

- What have been your highlights of the last few months?
- What has been a struggle for you over the last few months?
- What has God been showing/teaching you lately?

**Reconnecting through prayer:** Enter directly into a prayer time after everyone in the group shares their responses to the above questions. Pray around the circle and have each person pray for the person on their right. Encourage group members to pray for one another in light of what was shared.

**Reconnecting through managing group roles/logistics/calendar (this is the perfect time to enjoy your refreshments together while you talk):**

- As a group make sure you are all on the same page in terms of when/how often/where you will be meeting this fall
- Pass your refreshments sign-up sheet around
- Work out childcare issues
- Work out specific role responsibilities (socials coordinator, prayer leader, apprentice, hosts, etc.)
- Let them know the study plan for the Fall:
  - All-church *Crazy Love* series from October through Thanksgiving
  - The book *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan will be available at The Source for \$9
  - The Small Group study on *Crazy Love* is dependent on group members reading the book (a reading guide will be provided).

## **Reconnect: Week #2**

**Reconnecting through looking ahead as a group:** Again, go around the circle and have each person respond to the following question:

- What are your hopes/expectations for us as a group this fall?
  - Leader tip: You may need to help prime the pump by sharing your hopes/expectations first . . . make sure to address your hopes for the group relationally and spiritually.

**Reconnecting through studying God's Word:** Read Hebrews 10:22—25. Note that this entire passage uses “us” language . . . the commands are corporate in nature, so are appropriate to apply together as a small group. Discuss the following questions:

- How can we “draw near to God” as a group? (verse 22)
  - Leader tip: This is an opportunity to talk about your prayer times and Bible studies.
- How can we help each other “hold unswervingly to the hope we profess”? (verse 23)
  - Leader tip: This is an opportunity to talk about how you encourage one another and minister to each other in the ups and downs of life.
- How can we “spur one another on toward love and good deeds”? (verse 24)
  - Leader tip: This is an opportunity to talk about what accountability looks like in your group context, how you plan to “bring out God’s best in each other.”
- How can we “not give up meeting together”? (verse 25)
  - Leader tip: This is an opportunity to talk about consistency of attendance and how to poise your group to be in it for the long haul.

**Reconnecting through revisiting/revising your Group Covenant:**

- If your group has a Covenant, give everyone a copy of it and review it together. Ask the group if there are any suggestions for revisions in light of the discussion you just had about the Hebrews 10 passage. Revise it together and let them know that you’ll make the changes and give them a new copy next time you meet.
- If your group does not have a Covenant, then use the attached Group Covenant as an example to create one for your group. Make sure you create it **together** so that there is ownership of it by everyone.

**Reconnecting through Prayer:** This time have each group member write his/her prayer requests on a 3x5 card. Distribute the prayer requests (making sure no one gets their own.) Encourage group members to be in prayer for each other throughout the week. Then lead them into a time of prayer for your small group as a whole and for your times together as a group this fall.

- Thank God for his work in group member's lives.
- Ask God specifically to move in your group . . . through study, prayer and relationship building.
- Thank God for group members by name.

## Creating a Group Covenant

A covenant is a promise made *to each other* in the presence of God. Its purpose is to indicate your intention to make yourselves available to one another and to commit to fulfilling the purposes of a biblically functioning community. In a spirit of prayer, work through the following sentences, trying to agree on ground rules and values that will shape your group.

1. In light of the RTM focus of small groups, we agree to build a community that is Relational (safe, authentic) Transformational (life-changing) and Missional (intentionally reaching out to serve others).

2. We will meet on \_\_\_\_\_ (day of the week).

3. We will meet: (circle)      every week      every other week

4. We will meet from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and we will strive to start on time and end on time.

5. We will meet at \_\_\_\_\_ (place).

6. Check the following ground rules you want to guide your group:

\_\_\_ PRIORITY: While we are in this group, we will give the group meetings priority.

\_\_\_ RESPECT: Everyone is given the right to their own opinions and all questions are encouraged and respected.

\_\_\_ CONFIDENTIALITY / GOSSIP: Anything that is said in the meeting is held in strict confidence unless permission is granted to share outside the group meeting.

\_\_\_ CARE & SUPPORT: Permission is given to call upon each other at any time especially in times of crisis. We will share our needs and allow the group members to care for us.

\_\_\_ CUTTING HUMOR: We agree not to use humor that is cutting and may cause hurt feelings.

\_\_\_ Others:

*By signing below, I covenant with my small group members to abide by the above agreed upon commitments in the presence of God and our group. I will do my best to live out these promises, and fulfill the RTM of a Small Group.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_