

Weekly Small Group Schedule Template

Beginning Stage – focus on building community and encountering God







Time	Activity	Notes
7:00-7:05pm (5 min)	Icebreaker Question/Game More game ideas	Go around the room and have each person share something that makes him or her unique or unusual, such as "I've never left the state I was born in" or "I am one of 10 kids."
7:05-7:10pm (5 min)	Clarify group norms Example group norms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> We agree to be as open and honest as we feel safe and to listen to each other without judgement or interrupting. We agree to share about what would help us to feel safe as far as we know it (including avoiding ethnic or gender-based humor), making sure everyone has a chance to speak if they want. We all agree to meet at this time, date, and place at a regular rhythm and will tell someone if we can't make it. We will be spiritually curious as we dig into the content of this small group. No question is too big or too small. We decide together the content of this group (as a group leader, you should come prepared with a few options, unless you have set the topic ahead of time) We will continually welcome people to our small group and practice winsomely inviting people to our community. We will have a small group check-in (once a month or every other month) to make sure we are on mission together. <p>Conflict between small group members is normal. When we find ourselves in conflict we will choose to name that moment and seek resolution.</p>
7:10-7:30pm (20 min)	Sharing your story Full activity	<p>Introduce the "Sharing Your Story" exercise. Pick people to go each week. Share your story first! Prompt: "Here are some keys places where life really changed for me..."</p> <p>*As the leader, be prepared to go first and model depth and vulnerability</p> <p>Ask 1-2 people ahead of time to pray for who shared</p>
7:30-7:45pm (15 min)	Self-Care Study 1: A Healing Touch	Use this ready-made GIG guide (Make sure to print it out!)
7:45-8:00pm (15 min)	Closing/Prayer Prayerline resource	<p>Pray for FOCUS Sri Lanka:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray as the board works through the General Secretary transition. Ask that God would lead them to the right leadership and take FOCUS forward into a new chapter of flourishing and growth. Pray that God would lead the Governance Development team to movements where they can make a difference, as in Sri Lanka. Pray that all national movement board members would understand the significance of what they are working towards and fully take ownership of their God-given responsibility.

Try it out for yourself using a [blank template!](#)

Weekly Small Group Schedule Template

Middle Stage – focus on evangelism and developing new leaders






Time	Activity	Notes
7:00-7:15pm (15 min)	Sharing in pairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Break up into pairs and share a high and a low about your week. Take a moment to each share something they think the other person positively contributes to the group. For example: “you ask great questions” or “you always bring a friend” or “you really help us connect with God’s heart for justice.” <p>Close in praying for and affirming one another</p>
7:15-7:35pm (20 min)	Bible Study: Stepping into Risk 	<p>Introduce leadership by framing it as stepping into kingdom risk. Use the first study, “Stepping into Risk” on pp. 4-6.</p>
7:35-7:55pm (20 min)	Discipleship: Building leaders 	<p>Go back to your pairs from the beginning and discuss this prompt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “What would it look like for me to take a kingdom risk based on gifts my partner affirmed in me?” For example, if your partner affirmed that you ask great questions, how might you prayerfully start a spiritual conversation with a seeker? Or, if you are gifted at making people feel welcome, how might you bring something to share with the group the following week? Each pair should come up with a “one-pepper” spice idea and a “two-pepper” spice idea. The two-pepper idea is more of a stretch. In the above example, one-pepper is bringing a snack to share; two-pepper is inviting a new person to the group. For more inspiration, check out these ideas. <p>The leader has each pair share and say which of the options they came up with they want to try.</p>
7:55-8:00pm (5 min)	Closing/Prayer 	<p>Close by praying that God would work the group to share the love of Jesus with the group’s networks and campus.</p>

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Weekly Small Group Schedule Template

End Stage – focus on empowering leaders to start new things, celebrate the experiences of the group, and dream and pray about the future of the group



Time	Activity	Notes
7:00-7:20pm (20 min)	Reflection timeline 	Using post-it notes and a wall and signs for each month (or a large dry-erase board), create a timeline of the mighty acts of God to celebrate and communally put this story together. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a timeline from the start of the chapter to today, leaving space between each month. • Review your calendar to prompt your memory about what happened at each stage. Note places where things went differently than expected. Is there something to mourn? Something to celebrate? Tell the story of what God has done this year in the group.
7:20-7:40pm (20 min)	Psalm 121 activity 	Prepare for change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write sticky notes and place them under reach of these categories: What's ending in our current way of doing things? What's unknown about getting to this next stage? What will the new stage look like? • Next, invite someone to read Psalm 121 and share this brief introduction: • This psalm was sung as religious pilgrims made their way to Jerusalem for the three annual festivals held there. Pilgrimage psalms help us think about a physical journey as a representation of a spiritual journey. Just like a physical journey, our spiritual journey can contain experiences of both joy and difficulty, excitement as well as fear or discouragement. • As you listen to the psalm, ask God to help you to rest and be at peace in his presence. Think about the journey your group has been on. Where has God been active? Where has he seemed absent? • Have the reader of the psalm pause and then read it a second time. Listen for what God is calling your attention to: a word, phrase or image. Pause once more and then read it a third and final time. Ask God for what's significant about the word, phrase or image he gave you in the psalm.
7:40-8:00pm (20 min)	Group sharing 	In pairs, ask God if he has a word, phrase or image for the other person or group about the <i>next stage</i> of the group. (It's ok if what comes up is not related to the psalm.) Take turns sharing what you are each hearing from God. It's helpful in situations like this to offer what you're hearing tentatively and with humility. Try saying, "feel free to let me know if this seems significant to you or not, but I sense God is saying," Each person shares what they think God is calling them or the group to in the next stage.

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