

# CONNECT GROUPS

— life is better together —

## Week 1 Meeting (Week of Sep 18th)

**Our goal for the first meeting is to ensure everyone knows each other, and set the expectation for what future groups will look like. This group may look different (longer opening, more chit-chat, less discussion, etc.) but it's important to establish expectations for what future groups will look like. The most important thing, however, is to start building relationships of trust with each other.**

### Opening

Introduce the group, clarifying your meeting time and location, answering any questions. This may be a good time to explain the three pieces of most meetings: check-in, discussion, and prayer (see leaders guide for details) and emphasize the need to keep meetings between 1-1.5 hours.

### Check-In

Use check-in on the opening week to ensure everyone knows each other. Have the entire group share their name (even if they don't think they need to) and a little about themselves (family, work, interests, etc.)

### Discussion

This week, our discussion is centered around the group itself, as we try to understand what each of us hopes for in our group and establish expectations for one another.

1. Have you participated in a group like this in the past? If so, share what your past experience has been like. If not, what do you expect?
2. What do you hope this group will produce in your life or the lives of others in this group?
3. What are some things (guidelines, habits, expectations) that you think would help make this group as beneficial as possible for all of us?

### Prayer