

Growth Groups

The First Night

GOALS OF FIRST NIGHT:

- Get to know any new people and rekindle old relationships.
- Set expectations and tone for the semester.
- Briefly discuss sermon and spend time in prayer.

STARTING OFF RIGHT:

- Make sure everyone knows the time and exact location of meeting.
- Have some light snacks and refreshments ready
- Make sure house is clean and inviting. Have soft worship music playing.

BEGINNING THE NIGHT:

SAY: *"We are going to begin in a couple minutes now, so finish up conversations and find a seat when you are ready!"* When everyone is seated open with a brief prayer asking God to bless your time and the semester.

SAY: "Before we do anything else, we are going to spend the majority of the time just getting to know each other." Go around room and have each person say:

1. Your full name
2. Where you are from
3. How long you have been coming to Church at Bergen
4. If you had one extra hour every day what would you do in that hour (besides sleep!)? Why?

DISCUSSING THE SERMON (BRIEFLY):

SAY: "Now that we've gotten to know each other a little bit, let's spend a few minutes reflecting on the sermon. What did you guys think of the sermon? In what way were you encouraged, confused, convicted, or challenged?"

SETTING EXPECTATIONS:

SAY: "I am very grateful that God has brought us together as a group. Before we close in prayer it is really important that we set clear expectations in the group." Go over any other expectations you might have and what they can expect each time.

SAY: "This semester of Growth Groups will run through the end of November. The one unique thing is that on the last week of each month all Growth Groups are going to meet at Worship & Prayer to pray together as a church. Please do your best to be there as we want to establish a culture of dependence on God. It will run from 7:30PM-8:30PM."

WRAPPING UP

CLOSE IN PRAYER: take any brief prayer requests and pray for the group.

END THE NIGHT EARLY! Try to end the meeting a little earlier so everyone can continue casually getting to know one another.