

## GOAL FOR THIS WEEK: *FELLOWSHIP*

Continue to foster relationships and get to know one another. It is essential to establish a foundation of fellowship. Give people time and space to interact and hang out. This will pay off in the later months of the semester.

## TIPS FOR BUILDING FELLOWSHIP

1. Snacks, refreshments, and icebreakers are helpful in building fellowship.
2. Build in “fellowship time” at the beginning of the night.
3. End the night a little early and have desserts so people can hangout afterwards.
4. Text people who are absent and let them know: 1) you hope they are doing well, 2) they were really missed last time. Never make people feel guilty for missing a meeting or it will make them feel disconnected.

## 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.

**Begin the night with the icebreaker. SAY:** “Before we discuss the sermon and study questions, we are going to do another icebreaker.” Even if icebreakers seem “cheesy” to you, they are very important for helping new relationships feel comfortable. There are **two options** for an icebreaker:

1. **Three fun facts:** using notecards and pens have people walk around to 3 other people in the group to find out one fun fact. When you are done have each person report what they found to the group. Then vote on the most interesting fact.
2. **“Take it or leave it.”** Have each person go around and answer one of the questions on the sheet. The only answers they can give are “take it” or “leave it.” See separate sheet attached with questions.

## DISCUSSING THE SERMON:

**SAY:** “Now that we’ve gotten to know each other a little bit, let’s spend some time reflecting on the sermon.” **Remember to be patient with new people in the groups. It takes time to get comfortable talking about these things. Remind people to that awkward silence is okay because it means people are thinking.**

1. What did you guys think of the sermon? In what way were you encouraged, confused, convicted, or challenged?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

All groups are meeting at **Worship & Prayer** next Wednesday, Sept. 25 instead of their normal locations.

All extra **1 Peter booklets** should be returned to the info center.

## STUDY BOOKLETS

Next Sunday we are studying **1 Peter 1:3-9**.

Complete the questions on **pages 10-11** before Sunday.

## Growth Groups: Week 2 – “Elect Exiles” (1 Peter 1:1-2)

2. It was said in the sermon that an “elect exile” is essentially what it means to be a Christian. What did you conclude from **question 1** in the study booklet? How does this help you understand what it means to be a Christian?
3. The biggest point from the sermon was the importance of the “foreknowledge of God” as it relates to your unbreakable identity as an elect exile. Was this the affect it had upon you? Why or why not?
4. What has been your understanding and experience with the teaching of the “foreknowledge of God”? The same word is used in **Acts 2:22-23**. Look it up and discuss what the verse is teaching about this idea.
5. It was pointed out that “foreknowledge” is not merely God being “aware” of what will happen in the future, but it includes his determining of things. Go to Romans 8:28-29 and see if this seems to square with what was said in the sermon. Explain.
6. How did you answer **question 6** from the study booklet? How can we pray and encourage one another this week with this?

### CLOSING IN PRAYER (TIPS BELOW)

- Leave plenty of time to pray.
- Remind people to be patient as the group grows in comfortability praying together. It will take time. People should not feel forced to pray.
- Be careful you don’t spend too much time taking “prayer requests.”
- When you start give people permission to sit in silence and pray only if they feel like God wants them to pray for something.
- Encourage people to not feel like they have to say long or sophisticated prayers, but simple ones are just acceptable to God.

## Take It or Leave It

What if... you could get rid of your biggest fear BUT you had to pass it on to your best friend? Take it or leave it?

What if... you suddenly had the ability to read anyone's mind BUT the person standing closest to you was able to read yours 24/7? Take it or leave it?

What if... you found a large sum of money every single day for the rest of your life BUT your hand became a foot? Take it or leave it?

What if... you could save the life of anyone BUT you must have 4 years taken from your own life? Take it or leave it?

What if... you could hang out with any famous person from any time period celebrity for a whole week, but you could only listen to one song for the rest of your life? Take it or leave it?

What if... you could become the most intelligent person in the world BUT you became permanently awkward in all conversations, even text? Take it or leave it?

What if... You got your dream job BUT your boss was extremely annoying and unrelatable? Take it or leave it?

What if... You never experienced fear and anxiety again BUT you could never cut your hair again. Take it or leave it?

If you need more, just use your creative mind to think of new ones 😊