

CREATING A COMMITTED CORE

CONSISTENCY - *create a sense of belonging and ownership.*

- ❖ **Group members know what to expect each week.**
- ❖ Create a comfortable rhythm by facilitating through each element of the participant guide, allowing Group members to grow in trust and vulnerability.
- ❖ Encourage Group ownership through storying and additional responsibilities.
- ❖ Meet regularly and **set Group as a weekly priority no matter how many members come;** make Group meeting time valuable where discussions center around Jesus.

COMMUNICATION - *offer direct clarity about expectations and commitment.*

- ❖ **Verbally lay the groundwork for how your Group is going to function**
- ❖ Discuss how hard it is to meet weekly, but also that Group is worth it.
- ❖ **Cast vision** - We are a Discipleship Group –we may not all be best friends, but we will prioritize supporting one another to grow in our faith.
- ❖ Create a text/email thread for all group members, both male and female.
- ❖ Group is for everyone! If one spouse cannot come to a Group meeting, the other spouse will make it a priority to attend.
- ❖ **Send follow up emails** after group with questions from the Discussion guide
- ❖ **Send a reminder** for the group's next weekly meeting.

COMMUNAL LIVING - *come as you are, and we will too.*

- ❖ **Model vulnerability:** don't be tempted to hide your weakness or strengths.
- ❖ The host home can be messy, the children loud, the schedule thrown off a bit.
- ❖ Offer simple snacks or drinks that may help people to feel more comfortable,
- ❖ **Do something different** every 4-6 meetings: break up into men's and women's groups, share a meal, or have a night out.
- ❖ **Do something social** outside of the weekly Group meeting to **create personal connections.**
- ❖ Text or call to stay in touch, remember prayer requests and ask about them inside and outside the group to promote real relationships.

As Paul lays out in 1 Corinthians all of these actions are “a clanging cymbal” without love. These are all helpful ways for leaders to care for their members, but it is God's love that speaks to the head, moves through the heart, and works in our hands to build relationships and mature us into His likeness.