

# Make your First Night Great – Night 1 Agenda

## **Goals of the First Meeting**

- Rekindle relationships and meet new members
- Clarify your group's direction/expectations/ commitments using the covenant
- Briefly discuss the sermon topic (if there is time)
- Pray for the building of relationships and spiritual growth of the group

## **Items Needed for the First Meeting**

- Dinner/dessert plans decided
- Growth Group covenants – small ones to hand out & one to sign if group so decides
- Nametags (host should write them out a ahead of time)

## **Contact Your Group in Advance**

- Contact all members one week before the first meeting to welcome them to the group and inform them of the location and the time of your group, as well as any entrees to bring to dinner

## 3 Essential Parts of your evening agenda

### **#1 WELCOME, MINGLE AND TALK WHILE YOU EAT**

- Leadership tip – Studies show that the first 7 seconds a person spends in a room can make or break the remainder of their experience in that room
  - People greeted when they arrive
  - Drinks available when people arrive
  - House cleaned, phone off if possible
  - Music playing

### **#2 THINK THROUGH THE UNIQUENESS OF YOUR FIRST GROUP DISCUSSION** (*GOING OVER THE COVENANT IS CRUCIAL*)

- Let people know your meeting is going to start in about five minutes
- Why it is unique – getting to know each other, setting expectations

#### A) Sharing

- Refer to the Growth Guide
- Sharing Guidelines

#### B) THE COVENANT – SET THE EXPECTATIONS AND VISION

- Everything rises and falls on how this is communicated
- Discuss what makes a healthy group
- Distribute the Covenant
- Go over the Covenant (see Leader's Guide)
  - Hopefully, this is an affirmation of what healthy groups do
- Begin distribution of responsibilities: social coordinator, service coordinator, who will decide meals

#### C) Prayer

### **#3 KNOW THAT YOUR “DESSERT CONVERSATIONS” ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS YOUR MEETING DISCUSSIONS**

- Leadership tip- Never underestimate the significance of the time after the meeting. It is key to connect with people and find out more about them.