

GROUP LAUNCH

Beginning together

WELCOME TO YOUR PARTNERSHIP GROUP!

We've created this group session to help everyone in your Partnership Group understand and discuss the goals for groups at Maybridge and to get to know one another better.

We hope it helps you and your group begin *together*.

CONNECT (5mins)

As you begin, make sure you introduce everyone in the group.

PRAY (5mins)

Before watching the video and discussing the questions provided, we suggest taking a few moments to pray.

WATCH (duration 3:30 mins)

Watch the Group Launch video – accessed at maybridge.org.uk/group-leaders

They'll be moments to pause, share, discuss and reflect.

VIDEO NOTES

People join groups for different reasons – we want groups to **focus** on:

- 1.** Reading scripture together and giving the opportunity to talk about how they apply to your everyday life.
- 2.** Praying together, giving space to wrestle with the big questions of faith and life, and encouraging others to figure out their next steps. Remember – groups are a community where people can receive care and support one another, but they're not designed to be a councillor or a parent.
- 3.** Building relationships and remaining outward-in focused – looking to be good news to others, welcome new people in and take an active part in church life.

PAUSE & SHARE (15 mins)

Take a minute to reflect on these questions and then ask everyone to share with the rest of the group. Pause the video, taking the time to hear from everyone in the group.

- Have you been a part of a Partnership Group or other church small group before?
How did you find it?
- What are you most excited about starting this group? Any worries?

WATCH

Continue watching the video (duration 4:30 mins, pause next at 8:00 mins).

VIDEO NOTES

Our goal for Partnership Groups:

To encourage & equip as many people as possible to **know Jesus, love Jesus, & copy Jesus.**

- The aim of groups is to help each other get to know more about Jesus and the truth found in scripture. (Romans 12:1-2)
- To love the Lord is to follow Him wherever he leads, to obey him, and to trust Him. (Matthew 22:36-38). We want groups to be places where we help one another understand more of God's character through scripture, prayer, worship and spiritual disciplines so Jesus can change and shape our affections and characters.
- Our end goal is to help people grow and mature into the kind of person who can say and do all the things Jesus said and did (1 John 2:5-6).

PAUSE & READ (5mins)

Acts 2:42-47

Preferably once aloud, giving time for everyone to read it on their own.

DISCUSS (15mins)

- What habits, characteristics and aspects of shared life do we see expressed in this account of the early Church?
- In what ways can we express this model of doing life together as a group?

WATCH

Continue watching the video (duration 4:40 mins).

VIDEO NOTES

Expectations for group life:

Group individual's role is to stay engaged, bring enthusiasm and own your own spiritual growth.

Group's collective role is to support and encourage (Hebrews 10:24-25), promote accountability and care and pray for one another.

REFLECT (3 mins)

Take a minute for each group member to individually complete the 'How You Connect' activity. When you're finished, discuss as a group the questions that follow.

DISCUSS (20 mins)

I feel closest to God when...

How do you connect with God?

In order to relax and re-energise...

How did you rank yourself?

How does this play out in your life?

In a group conversation...

How did you rank yourself?

In this group, how can we make sure everyone has the chance to speak?

When processing new ideas...

How did you rank yourself?

In this group, how might this affect you when you're studying something new?

When experiencing emotions...

How did you rank yourself?

When you're excited about something, how will the group know?

SHARE (20 mins)

For the rest of the session, we've supplied some questions to help you continue to get to know one another. You may not have time to work through all these questions so you could choose to add these to the beginning of your next few meetings to keep the conversation going.

Complete three rounds of the questions below, inviting each person to answer one or more questions from each round.

Round 1 – Sharing the Basics

- Where were you raised?
- How long have you lived in this area?
- What do you like to do in your spare time?

Round 2 – Church, Faith, and Expectations

- How long have you been connected to Maybridge Community Church?
- Where are you at in your faith journey?
- In your opinion, what would make this a great group experience?

Round 3 – Getting to Know One Another

- If you could take a vacation tomorrow, where would you go and why?
- What's your favourite food and why?
- If you could have dinner with any famous person in history, who would it be?

PRAY

End your group's time with prayer. Ask God for his guidance as you start this Group. Focus your prayers on the relationships that will form and the spiritual growth you hope to experience during your time together. In future weeks, you can encourage the group to share ways you can all pray for each other.