

5

PROCESS FIVE: HOW TO EQUIP YOUR SMALL GROUP LEADERS

Jesus Christ used a small group to create momentum and keep it going—He launched his divine plan to redeem mankind by making disciples out of a small group. The question, of course, is why would He do that? Why a small group?

Most meaningful change takes place in the context of small group relationships—**men sharpening men with truth, encouragement, and commitment.**

For this reason, small groups—both men's and couples'—are one of the primary components of The Journey to Biblical Manhood. We'll help you form groups, get men connected and get them reading and discussing the Word together.

We emphasize throughout the Journey that facilitating a group should be easy; **we want to help you equip every mature, willing man to facilitate a group.** Remember—your leadership team should be a resource for the facilitators throughout the challenge. Support them and pray for them.

We recommend you have a **short meeting with prospective group facilitators** two or three weeks before your **Create Value** event to go over the guidelines below:

- ✓ At your meeting, **exemplify the tone** that you'd like the facilitators to adopt with their men—be authentic, interested, enthusiastic and sincere.
- ✓ Share with your men the importance of having **5-10 men to a group** - the goal is for men to feel like they can open up with one another, and if a group gets too big, the size can hinder the intimacy.
- ✓ Emphasize that you want to offer a **variety of meeting days, times, and locations** (i.e. parts of town).
- ✓ Establish and review the **format** you'd like group facilitators to follow for the challenge. Will worship be included? Will you open with icebreakers? Will you end with prayer requests? Decide on these things ahead of time. There doesn't have to be a one-size-fits-all format, but do discuss and set expectations.
- ✓ Decide on a **uniform time frame** for group meetings, such as 1½ hours. If a group is set to end at 8:30, don't dismiss at 9:45. Discuss the importance of honoring the men's time.
- ✓ Review the **Faith & Life Objectives** for the challenge and show men how to share the vision with their group members, using the cards provided.

"The most intense learning, growth, sharing, encouragement, accountability, prayer and fellowship I've experienced have taken place in small groups."

—Patrick Morley, *How to Lead a Weekly Men's Small Group*

- ✓ Review the pre- and post-**Assessment forms** for the challenge and explain how they need to be completed and collected from each man.
- ✓ Many of the resources suggested for the challenges include discussion questions for small groups already, but if not, supply the facilitators with **discussion questions** for each week to help men dig deeper into the study. Their aim is to be an interested facilitator—**not a teacher**—and this will help promote group-wide discussion among the men.
- ✓ Set the expectation that facilitators should **call each guy every week**; this should be a short call that simply expresses, “I’m glad you’re in the group and I’ll see you Thursday,” for example.
- ✓ Stress the importance of **confidentiality** within groups, and ask the facilitators to go over that with their men during the first or second week.

Before the facilitators leave your training meeting, give each of them the handout, **Facilitating a Men's Group**. This can be found in the Forms and Templates section of this notebook. Make copies as needed.

Thank them in advance for volunteering their time and investing in men's lives. They are an invaluable part of The Journey to Biblical Manhood.