

5 Commandments For Fruitful Growth Group Discussions and Bible Studies

“The purpose of small groups is not meetings but maturity.... When every occasion of Christian community is viewed as an opportunity for Christian formation, groups take on new importance and the structuring of the time together becomes one of purposeful interaction” Julie Gorman, *Community that is Christian*.

1. Be open, humble, Christlike and loving. “Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” -Ephesians 4v29

2. Everyone gets a turn.

People process in generally one of two ways:

External Processors – Talk through their thoughts and emotion to process ideas. They talk their way to the point.

Internal Processors – Take it all in, think through emotion and thoughts before finding words to share.

The external processors should give internal processors time and space to speak up. Also, the internal processors need to be patient with the external processors as they think out loud.

3. Commit to being together. Being on-time and present for most of the growth group meetings is paramount as the health of the group depends on attendance and participation.

4. Maintain Christian Confidence that what is shared in the group will stay in the group.

5. Don't take disagreements personally. The most fruitful groups often involve lively debate. This requires disagreement. Members should be prepared to disagree in a polite and constructive way. The flip side of this is that they should be open to people who disagree with them. Doing this in just a great way to learn about different interpretations of God's Word, but practice for success in real life as well.