

3/3rds Group Format for a House Church Meeting

LOOK BACK (1/3 of your time)

Start by focusing on and exalting Jesus through song, thanksgiving, or a scripture reading.

Care Share a meal, a refreshment, a story from this week, or an answer to prayer. How has everyone's personal relationship with God been? If anyone is struggling, pray for him/her, and stay after to care for that person. Don't spend too much time on a "problem" someone experiences, reserve time to deal with that after the meeting.

Check-up (Never skip)

1. How have you **obeyed** what you have learned from Jesus?
2. Who have you **trained** in what you have learned?
3. With whom have you **shared** your story or God's story?

Vision (Never skip) Share a story from the Bible, a personal story, an inspiring slogan or song to encourage one another to share Jesus with others, to start new groups, and to help others do the same. You can use one of the following Bible passages to get started: Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 10:1-11, Acts 1:8, Luke 19:1-10, Matthew 13:1-23.

LOOK UP (1/3 of your time) Talk with God Simply and Briefly.

Read, tell story or act out a story and discuss. Let them practice telling the story.

- *What does the passage/story say?*
- *What does the passage/story mean?*
- *What did you like about this passage/story?*
- *What don't you like about this passage/story?*
- *What does this passage/story teach about people?*
- *What does this passage/story teach about God?*

LOOK FORWARD (1/3 of your time)

Obey. Train. Share. (Never skip) Have everyone in the group pray for the Spirit to show them how to answer these questions, then make commitments. Write the commitments down.

4. How will you **obey** this passage?
5. Who will you **train** with this passage?
6. With whom will you **share** your story or the story of God?

Practice (Never skip) In groups of two or three, practice what you have committed to do in question 4, 5 and 6. For example, role-play a difficult conversation or facing a temptation; practice teaching today's passage, or practice sharing the Gospel.

Talk with God In groups of two or three, lay hands on and pray for every member individually. Ask God to prepare the hearts of the people who will be hearing about Jesus this week. Ask Him to give you the strength to be obedient to your commitments.

Guiding Principles of the 3/3rds Group Format

SMALL

Keep groups small. Start groups around circles of relationships, people who already know each other. Meet where these people already gather. (Eg. in a home, café or under a tree) With a larger group, divide into sub-groups of 3, 4 or 5 people.

EVERYONE LEARNS TO GROW ON THEIR OWN

In the group, everyone learns to grow by doing the following on their own: 1. tell others about Jesus, 2. learn from the Bible, 3. talk with God, 4. help and encourage other believers, and 5. boldly face persecution and hard times.

CONSIDER EVERYONE A POTENTIAL TRAINER

View everyone as a potential trainer, both before and after they trust Jesus. Leaders are usually unpaid and without formal schooling.

OBEY & TRAIN

The groups are obedience based, not merely knowledge focused. Follow Jesus by learning and obeying the Bible through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Make practical and specific commitments each meeting and review them the next time you meet. Become fishers of men by training others how to learn and obey as well. This creates an environment in which loving Jesus means obeying Jesus.

NEW GROUPS THROUGH MENTORING & MULTIPLICATION

Focus on starting new groups rather than growing existing groups bigger through addition. Meet with new leaders as they start new groups. Train them to do the same for others. Keep everyone connected for ongoing training and accountability.

DISCUSS & DISCOVER

Focus on the Bible. Trust the Holy Spirit to help each person discover the meaning of Scripture. Lead through asking questions rather than preaching/ teaching. Try to make sure everyone participates.