



CIRCLE UP
PART 3
Experiencing Church in Circles, Not Rows

Before a big game, teams circle up, review the game plan, and hear a few motivational words from the coach. As your new group kicks off, learn some ways to make sure your group experience is a great one.

ICEBREAKER:

When I was a kid my parents got me involved in Cub Scouts. I still remember wearing my cub scout tie and sitting in my “pack” as we prepared for the evening’s activities. In that group, I learned lots about working with my fellow pack members and following my leader. What is the first formal group you remember being part of? How were you impacted by it?

MEMORY VERSE: Read the following verses out loud together. Then see if you can quote the verses without looking at the page.

“We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God’s Good News but our own lives, too.” 1 Thessalonians 2:8

VIDEO: Watch Circle Up Part 1 <https://www.anthology.study/circleup>

STUDY:

Here are some key insights from this session’s video. Read through these together as a group.

- What was a key highlight for you from the video?

“Having the right relational chemistry isn’t always necessary for a group to form.”

“Real community, close relationships forming over time, can’t be forced.”

“The church can create a group, but you create community together.”

“People who see things differently than we do can broaden our perspectives and that can help us grow.”

“Loving God is best demonstrated by loving people. Many times those people are different than us.”

WAYS TO BUILD COMMUNITY IN GROUP

There is a strong connection between being curious and being real with others. When we are genuinely interested in the lives of other people in group, this will draw out our fellow group members to be real about their lives. As trust grows, relationships will strengthen.

1. BE REAL

Going past the surface and letting others know what’s really going on with you.

Open up about people, places, events that have really shaped who you are today.

2. BE CURIOUS

Take a genuine interest in what’s going on in the lives of others in your group.

Curiosity is an essential tool for loving your neighbour.

The best way to practice curiosity is to LISTEN closely and ASK questions.

SHARING MY STORY

SOME GUIDELINES

1. Take 5 – 10 minutes to share your story with the group using this question as a guide.
“What key people, places or events have helped shape who you are today?”
2. As your fellow group members share, rather than snap judgments or advice, ask questions. Your questions can help to draw even more depth from the story that is being shared and it shows you are genuinely interested in the person who is sharing.

PRAYER: Take some time now to pray together in group. You can do this in groups of two or three people. Use the following questions as a guide for how to pray for each other. Aim for about 5 minutes for each person to share answers to these questions, then pray for one another. (Note: if you are uncomfortable praying out loud, it is OK to pray silently).

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What challenge are you facing? Is there some way the group can help?
- What do you sense God is inviting you to do from this study?