

LIFEGROUPS

LEADER RESOURCES



WELCOMING GUESTS

When people visit your group for the first time, they come with all sorts of questions. “Will we like it?” “Will we connect with the people there?” “Will this be helpful for us?” Just showing up can be intimidating for people entering a new group dynamic because they don’t know how they’ll be received, if they’ll feel like they “fit,” and if they’ll want to return.

And that’s human nature, of course, most people feel less than relaxed entering a new social situation with new people in a new place. But there are things you can do as the Life Group leader to help ease any tension that guests may be feeling. Here are some tips to help your guests feel more comfortable, received, and accepted as they join your group.¹

BE WELCOMING

Greet your guests as soon as they come in. Introduce yourself and let them know it’s great to have them at your group. Next, try to learn a little about them (this will help you with introducing them to the rest of the group). Be prepared to do something fun and non-threatening when a new person shows up. Your group may be very close and comfortable with each other, but the new person is an acquaintance at best. So do some things that you would do with acquaintances. Don’t expect them to jump right into the existing group dynamic. At the very least, be sure to explain things as you do them.

BE NORMAL

You don’t need to put on a show for your guests. Just be yourself. After introductions your group should go through it’s normal routine. Continue on in your study, take prayer requests, break out to mutual ministry. Let them observe first-hand how your group does Life Together.

Mutual Ministry Time: Your mutual ministry time will serve as an opportunity to hear about the spiritual life of your guest. Ask them to share their story of salvation, and in turn have the rest of your group members do the same. Sharing testimonies lays a great foundation for future relational intimacy.

BE THANKFUL

The week following your meeting you should contact the individual to thank them for attending and to answer any questions that they might have. This contact will also help to gauge whether or not they plan on returning.

NOT EVERY GUEST WILL JOIN

Don’t take it personally if your guest decides to find another group that will fit them better. Let them know from the beginning that their visiting doesn’t mean they’re committing to the group. This give them and you an out if needed. You are not trying to convince them to join. Your role is to simply be authentic, show that you care, and let them know you’d love to have them join you. Then trust that God will lead them to the right group.

(1) adapted from Smallgroups.com