

Connect Group Model (Using Storying)

- 1) **Welcome**
- 2) **Prayer**
- 3) **Vision**
 - Brief explanation/reminder of church's purpose/strategy
 - Brief explanation/reminder of purpose of the group time
 - Set goals for the time
- 4) **Guidelines**
- 5) **Ice Breaker**
- 6) **Content**
 - Review last week's story (let someone retell it)
 - 3 questions to see if story had an impact on their life in the past week
 1. How did last week's story affect your life over the past week?
 2. Did you tell it to anyone?
 3. Did it change you in a certain way?
 - Tell the story (don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story)
 - Let the group reconstruct the story (they tell it back – use questions to prod them)
 - Ask questions leading to application (head, hands, heart)
- 7) **Celebration** (verbal – maybe plan it out as the group makes goals)
 - Ask someone present to be prepared to retell the story next week
- 8) **Prayer**
- 9) **Dismiss**

Potential Concerns in a Group Setting (What facilitators need to be ready for):

- Children
 - Each group decides
- Lack of trust
 - Confidentiality issues
 - The leader must model vulnerability & hold the group accountable
- Lack of biblical accuracy
 - Pray for Holy Spirit's direction & protection
 - Discuss problems with pastor
- Lack of participation
 - Encourage participation weekly as the group starts
 - Consider emailing the quiet ones the questions in advance
- Dominant group member
 - Invite others to share
 - The leader may need to have a private conversation with offender
- Savior of the group
 - Bailing people out who are struggling with a question
 - Remind that silence and pain can be useful/helpful
- Opposition to starting a new group out of the existing group
 - Remind of the purpose – discipleship
 - The group must stay outreach/discipleship minded

Most Exciting Elements of a Storying Home Group:

- Seeing people become more like Christ as He uses His Word in their lives
- Seeing people move from being disconnected from church to being a spiritual leader in church
- Ease of preparation for the leader
- Ease of participation from group members
- Understanding the potential impact of these groups

Miscellaneous Considerations:

- Always ask open-ended questions
 - Let silence do its work
- Listen carefully
 - Key off others' answers and ask follow-up questions
- Look for potential group leaders within your group
 - Great teaching ability is not as important as a great love for people
- There is no set time for a new group to start
 - Allow a potential leader the opportunity to "practice" as facilitator in his existing group
- What to do with children – Each group decides for itself (some have children roaming the house, some have hired babysitters, some have couples take their turn overseeing/teaching the children while the group meets – even let them rehearse a skit of the story the group is covering that day.)
- Leaders must model vulnerability (don't act like you have it all together)
- Over-talkers – Say "I need to get Brian to participate more. Help me do that by giving opportunity."
- What to do about quiet members
 - Encourage participation
 - Start off easy
 - Consider emailing questions in advance