

## GOOD GROUP HABITS

**1. Always remember our purpose! We are here to grow in full devotion to Jesus.**

**2. We all have feelings (yes, even guys!).**

When we talk to each other we should be mindful of HOW we say something, making sure we've phrased it in such a way that the people we're talking to have the greatest chance of receiving what we've said. Speak as you want to be spoken to. Let courtesy, grace, and respect win the day.

**3. Each small group member is *invited* but *not required* to join in the discussion.**

The same can be said about prayer time and accountability. Even though it isn't required, to opt out of these things is a huge detriment to not only your spiritual growth but the group as well. It's been said that the less you open up, the less you grow. So take a chance and engage!

**4. On the flipside, don't be a "talk hog".**

Like a "ball-hog" in basketball who keeps the ball to himself, dominates the shot-taking, and never passes it to others, don't be the one who always has to talk every time the opportunity arises. Discussion time is limited, so please be sure that everyone who wants to speak has the opportunity to do so (this applies to prayer time too). In other words, "*Pass the ball.*"

**5. We're in this for the long haul.**

If you've ever run a marathon or another long-distance race you know it all comes down to pacing yourself. Growth is the same way. We want to grow in Christ but that doesn't always come quickly, sometimes it takes time to get where we want to go...or where others know we should be. Belief changes are changes that usually take time as we're getting before truth, letting it soak in, and slowly owning it ourselves. That means process. That means time. So if we want group to work best we must be committed to being patient with each other. Not all of us are at the same place spiritually and frankly, all of us have weak areas spiritually that others may have down already. So let's create a patient and loving environment where someone can ask questions and feel safe, not threatened. Let's run together not in an "*I can't believe you don't know that*" way but an "*I love you enough to let us find the truth together*" way.

**6. Let's stay on task.**

It's easy to let group become an exercise in rabbit-chasing but time is short. While a rabbit or two maybe okay, the group should do its best on staying the course in what it is studying/discussing and how we can apply what we're learning. The LifeGroup Leader's job is to try to keep the ship sailing forward.

**7. When it comes to prayer time, share yourself.**

Community suffers when the only prayer requests seem to be for "Aunt Bertha's bad toe" week after week. Let your group pray for you – your needs, your desires, and your heart.

**8. If you have to miss group, please let us know ahead of time. Thanks!**

**9. Do your homework if you have any!**

**10. "What happens in group stays in group."**

Confidentiality is a must when it comes to sharing our hearts with each other!