

## Group Stages: Purpose and Planning

(For use with chapter 2 of book, page 27 of PowerPoint)

### Suggested for gathering or serving stages (in pairs)

*Purpose Statement:*

1. In 30 seconds or less, tell the person you are partnered with what your group is about.
2. Switch
3. Answer the following questions:
  - In what situations was the group most engaged, alive, excited and passionate?
  - If the people in your group had unlimited time and resources available to serve others, what would they want to do together?
  - As the facilitator, do you feel a sense of calling for the group? What impact do you sense God wants the group to have on each other? On others?
4. What themes were present in the discussion? Capture these themes.

#### **Taking it Deeper—Assignment**

Starting with the themes identified in question four, take a few minutes alone to draft a more defined purpose statement for your group using this format: We are a community of \_\_\_\_\_ (identity) that gather to \_\_\_\_\_ (impact of the group on members or others) and \_\_\_\_\_ (impact of the group on members or others). Example: We are a community of single women that gather to know more about God's character and wrestle with our doubts.

Share the purpose statement with other leaders in your group. What is it like to share it? How do they respond? Rate the statement on a scale of 1-10, 1 being "totally boring" and 10 being "absolutely exciting." If it's not a 10, what would make it a 10?

Revise the statement and share it with your small group.

## Group Stages: Purpose and Planning

**Suggested for negotiating, momentum or closure stages** (in pairs)

*Thinking, Feeling, Planning*

1. Both people share what they **think** about their small group right now. Example: I think our small group is too large. People don't share very deeply. And they don't seem to think they will be missed if they don't show up.
2. Both people share what they **feel** about their small group right now. Example: I feel like our small group is growing too comfortable; things are too routine and predictable. I don't sense a lot of energy in the room when we're together.
3. After each person has a better idea of their own thoughts and feelings, ask each other the following questions to brainstorm ideas for the group:
  - What ideas resonated for you today during the training?
  - What other ideas do you have?
4. At the end of the brainstorming, devise a **plan** for your small group. Come up with at least *one* thing you will do as a result of attending this training.

### **Taking It Deeper—Assignment**

Continue brainstorming by considering the following questions:

- Is there anyone in your small group whose voice is not being heard right now? Who?
- Is there anyone in your small group whose commitment appears to be wavering? Who?
- What do you sense God wants the group to experience either with each other or through serving others?
- What are some fun things the group might want to do together?
- Is there anything that you haven't shared with the group that seems important to communicate?

After you finish brainstorming, devise a plan for your small group. Come up with at least **three** things you will do. Things you may wish to include in your plan:

- Scheduling time to gather feedback from small group members, especially those who have not been heard or who are wavering in commitment.
- Initiatives you will take to reevaluate or redesign the purpose of the group.
- Planning fun get-togethers with the group.
- Planning a celebration that will result in closure for the group (if applicable).

Share your plan of three (or more) things you will do next with leaders in your group. Do these actions help resolve what you originally thought or felt about your group?