



Welcome back! Please insert DVD One and select **“Session Four: Determining Your Group’s Purpose”** to begin.



Watch this... 15 minutes  
“Segment One: Determining Your Purpose”

- It's important to determine your group's purpose
- Determining your purpose is done by answering three questions:

▶ What **kind** of group do we want to be?”

■ Examples:

- Recovery group
- Parenting group
- Bible study
- General growth group
- Other

Our answer: \_\_\_\_\_

▶ What kind of **curriculum** will we use?

■ Examples:

- Bible study
- Books
- Curriculum provided by your church
- Group-generated questions
- Video/DVD curriculum
- Other

■ Regardless of the curriculum you choose, go beyond content questions and ask process questions that get at people's feelings and emotions



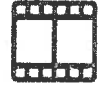
Drama: Faith Asks a Process Question

- Choose course materials that fit your purpose, structure, maturity level, and interests
- Determine if the questions in the course materials will foster good discussion in the group

Our answer: \_\_\_\_\_

▶ What kind of **balance** will we have between content (facts and knowledge) and process (thoughts and feelings)?

# session four | determining your group's purpose



Drama: Gregory's Small Group "Nightmares"

Our answer:



## • What will our typical agenda be?

- ▶ How much time will be spent on the teaching/lesson, talking and sharing, and prayer?
- ▶ Appoint a timekeeper

▶ Example for a 60-minute meeting:

- 10 minutes of sharing
- 40 minutes of interaction with the curriculum

- 10 minutes of prayer

▶ Example for a 90-minute meeting:

- 15 minutes of sharing
- 60 minutes of interaction with the curriculum

- 15 minutes of prayer

▶ Your agenda can be modified in any way to meet the needs and desires of your particular group

# determining your group's purpose

Our agenda:



Talk about this ... 25 minutes

*Provide an example of an agenda*



Watch this ... 20 minutes

"Segment Two: Closing Thoughts"

What we've covered ...

- Connecting
- The five habits
- Ground rules
- Purpose

The purpose of small groups:

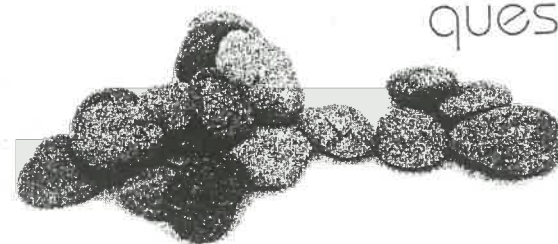
- To show grace and process truth over time
- To experience God and others



## At the end your group time, talk about this . . .

For this group check-in, set aside 15 minutes to answer the following questions that evaluate how your group is doing in the “truth” area. Discuss your answers together.

- How do we respond when truth is spoken?
- Does everyone feel safe to talk about their feelings?
- How well are we listening to each other?
- Are we free to say what we’re thinking (even when it’s a differing opinion)?
- Is there anything that needs to be said in the group that hasn’t been said yet?



Welcome back! Please insert DVD Two and select “**Tip Five: Asking Good Questions**” to begin.



**Watch this . . .** 6 minutes  
“*Tip Five: Asking Good Questions*”

### Definition:

There are **two types** of questions you should ask during your group meetings. They are questions that:

- **Discover more information** (information exchange)
- **Explore experience** (thoughts, feelings, etc.)

### Biblical reference:

- Proverbs 20:5—“the purposes of a man’s heart are deep waters and a man of understanding draws them out.”

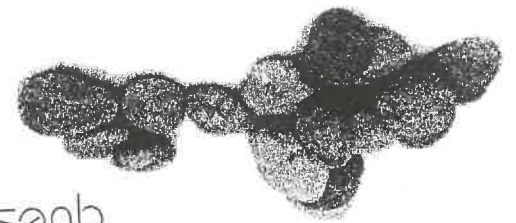
*e.g. as spiritual surgeon*

### Why it’s important:

- Helps you get to **know** the person
- Shows **interest** in their life
- Helps them **tell their story**
- Provides **dialogue**
- Helps the person **understand** themselves better



tip five: | asking good questions



Examples of asking questions that ...

• Discover more information—the facts:

- ▶ Tell me more about that ...
- ▶ Where did you grow up?
- ▶ Where do you work?

• Explore experience—thoughts and feelings:

- ▶ What did that feel like?
- ▶ How was your relationship with your parents?
- ▶ How did that relationship make you feel?
- ▶ What do you think about that?
- ▶ What was that like for you?

tip five: | asking good questions



During your group time, do this ...

Ask Good Questions

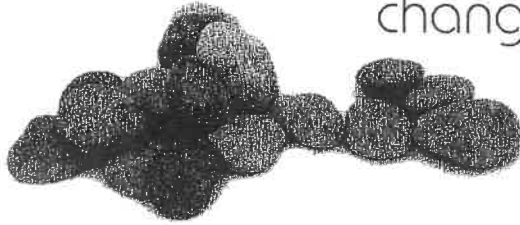
Try asking at least one information-focused and one experience-focused question during your meeting. You can choose who you want to ask, but you don't have to ask the same person each type of question.

At the end of your group time, talk about this ...



Looking back at your meeting ...

- Was it easy, awkward, or hard to ask questions? Why?
- What did you notice about the group dynamic when people were intentional about asking more questions?



Welcome back! Please insert DVD One and select  
**“Session Two: Five Habits of Life-Changing  
 Groups”** to begin.



**Watch this . . .** 23 minutes

**“Segment One: The Five Essential Habits”**

- Review: grace, truth, and time
- The five essential habits



**Drama: Violating the Five Habits**

Five habits that create a grace-filled, truth-telling  
group:

#### Care

- Being “for” each other
- Encouraging each other
- Coming alongside one another

#### Safety

- Having a “come-as-you-are” culture
- Feeling safe enough to be yourself
- Accepting each other unconditionally

#### Authenticity

- Being “real” with each other
- Taking relational risks with one another

#### Growth

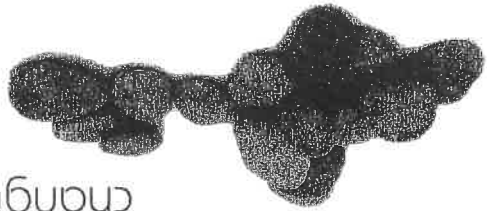
- Hebrews 10:24—spurring one another on
- Pushing each other to take growth steps
- Naming areas where growth needs to happen

#### Help

- Providing resources others may need
- Can be practical: helping move, filing tax returns, etc.
- It’s also about asking for help when it’s needed

Turn the page to begin filling out the chart  
as you watch the drama.

Five habits of life-changing groups



Drama: Using the Five Habits

As you watch the drama, look and listen for how group members use the five habits. Below is a chart with the group members' names and each of the habits. If you see a habit being used by a character, make a check in the appropriate box. (To see the answers, turn to page 141.)

	Kevin	Faith	Michael	Marty	Veronica	Gregory	Julie	Leisha
Care								
Safety								
Authenticity								
Growth								
Help								



Five habits of life-changing groups



Talk about this . . . 35 minutes

Part 1: (25 minutes)

- Share with the group the one habit that most resonated with you or is most important to you and why. Practice “authenticity” (being real) as you share.
- The rest of the group should practice “safety” while listening. This means no judgment and no condemnation; let the person who shared know that they are safe and accepted.
- Continue with the exercise until everyone has had a chance to share.

When everyone has shared, please turn the page to continue the activity.