

Filling the Empty Chair

Inviting new people, or “filling the empty chair,” can infuse a breath of fresh air into your group. A growing group is encouraging, brings a new source of insights, and can improve group dynamics.

Conversely, a group that stays the same year after year can stagnate and become ingrown and dysfunctional. Sharing a Q Place community with others is a value we hold high, because we believe everyone needs a safe place to encounter God and grow in faith with others who know and love them.

BEFORE YOU INVITE NEW MEMBERS

- Involve everyone in the process. Everyone in the group should invite people to the group.
- Always have an empty chair in your group as a visual reminder that you have room for another person to join you.
- Read from this document in your group so that everyone understands the what, why, and how of filling the empty chair.
- Regularly pray for God to fill the empty chair.
- Develop a list of potential new participants. Suggest places your group could meet potential members, such as among friends, coworkers, or family.

HOW TO INVITE NEW MEMBERS

- Develop relationships before inviting new potential members.
- Explain what a Q Place group is like and share some of your experiences.
- Ask them to think about joining this group.
- Give them an opportunity to meet other members of your group.
- Invite them to sit in on a few sessions to see what the group is like before making a commitment.

WHEN NEW PARTICIPANTS ATTEND THE GROUP

- Affirm the newcomer and the one who brought him or her.
- Celebrate what is happening in your group by asking each person to tell briefly what he or she likes about this group.
- Be sure to read through the Q Place guidelines whenever someone new comes.
- Don't add people too quickly. Allow the group to assimilate new members and grow together for a season before inviting additional people.