

Q Place Quickstart Guide

The book *How to Start a Q Place* walks you through crucial elements in the process of starting a Q Place group. The *Q Place Quickstart Guide* works well as a supplement (not a stand-alone) tool to check your progress and to ensure that you cover all the essentials.

PREPARATION

- Make your commitment to start a Q Place group.
- Pray for one or two co-initiators and invite them to join you on this adventure.
- Begin to meet regularly as a triad, going through [How to Start a Q Place](#) and other resources.
- If your challenging question is “How do I find people to come?” then go through the following curriculum sessions in Q Place’s [9 Arts Primer](#) (1 session per Art) or [9 Arts Compete Guide](#) (4 sessions per Art): Noticing, Praying, Listening, Asking Questions, Loving, Welcoming
- If the question on your mind is “How do I invite someone to a Q Place?” then pay special attention to *How to Start a Q Place* Chapter 3, and check out Invitation Best Practices and Invitation Samples in Group Tools at QPlace.com.
- If you would like to have a better handle on facilitating discussions in a small group for seekers, go through the Art of Facilitating 7.1–7.4 in the 9 Arts Complete Guide.
- Pray for discernment and brainstorm a list of people that each of you could invite to your Q Place group. In future weeks, follow God’s leading to modify that list.
- Set a date and a place for your Trial Meeting, and arrange to meet with your triad and pray together right beforehand.
- Discuss the format of the Trial Meeting, deciding who will take each role needed for a practice run. (See list in “Trial Meeting,” below.) Practice the Trial Meeting as a triad.
- Look at “Growth,” the last stage below, and go through a sample of each kind of discussion together so that you can become familiar with options that your group might use. Practice explaining the guidelines for your group.

INVITATION

As facilitators, be consistent, personal, and straightforward in your invitations. You are hosting a group in your home (or office, or coffee shop, etc.) to have a conversation about God (or to discuss questions about life, God, and the Bible, etc.). You’d love to have them come once and try it out. If they decide that it is something they would like to continue, then they are welcome to keep meeting with the group.

- Work on your invitation wording with your triad. (Check out Invitation Samples and Invitation Best Practices in [Group Tools](#) at QPlace.com.)
- If possible, make the invitation in person or over the phone. People have also used letters or emails to invite their friends and neighbors to a group.
- Follow up with the people you invited by calling or sending an email to confirm the plans and to provide more details.

TRIAL MEETING

The Trial Meeting is like the first meeting of any group of people coming together. The facilitators' job is to make the space welcoming and help the group get comfortable with each other.

Plan together who will:

_____ **Provide refreshments**

_____ **Greet and provide nametags**

_____ **Be the note-taker**

_____ **Watch the clock to start and end on time**

_____ **Get contact information**

_____ **Welcome** (1 min.)

Thank everyone for coming. Tell them how long the meeting will last and what time you'll end. Explain Q Place and your role as both initiator and participant.

_____ **Start with introductions** (10 min.)

Ask everyone to give their name, where they live, and a favorite hobby. Respond first, modeling how much time to take.

_____ **Facilitate icebreaker questions** (15-20 min.)

Ideally, use [*The Complete Book of Questions*](#). (See instructions in chapter 4 of *How to Start a Q Place*.) Otherwise, choose a question like one of these: Where are you from and what did living there teach you about life? What was the best time of your life, and why? What is one of your happiest childhood memories? What was the best gift you ever gave? . . . received? If you could relive one vacation, which would it be, and why?

_____ **Ask the main question** (15 min.)

Once the group is comfortable and connecting, move to your spiritual question. We recommend asking, "If you could ask God one question and you knew that he would answer, what would you ask, and why?" Let everyone know that one of you is writing down everyone's questions because they could be the focus of more discussions. Be sure to use good listening skills. Don't attempt to answer their questions.

_____ **Read and discuss:** Proverbs 4:5-7 or Matthew 7:7-8 (5 min.)

Before reading, explain that you would like to read a short statement from the Bible a few times so they can think about it, and then you would like to hear their reaction to it. Read just one of these passages a few times, and then ask for their thoughts. At an appropriate time, ask, "If you believed this statement was true, how would you apply it?"

_____ **Wrap up and conclude** (10 min.)

1. Affirm the group's participation and suggest meeting again. (I have enjoyed our time together! What did you think? . . . I would love to have more discussions like this with you.)
2. Give options.
If we were to meet again, what do you think about one of these ideas?
 - We could use a variety of conversation starters for a discussion of important life questions. (Show *The Complete Book of Questions*.)
 - Or, we could see what the Bible says about a topic you have questions about.
 - Or, there is a video series called "The 7 Big Questions" that might help us discuss some of our questions for God. One of the videos is "Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?"

3. Ask who is interested. (Who’s in? You could also invite friends who might be interested.)
4. Share contact information.
5. Discuss details—day, time, and location that would work well for those who are interested.

Decide who will contact each participant, to follow up and hear what they think about their experience in the Trial Meeting. Pray for everyone who came and for others who may also join you.

GROWTH

The growth stage starts when your group continues to meet after the Trial Meeting. Whatever you choose to discuss, start off with guidelines so that everyone will understand how the group will work. Continue to keep the pulse of your group and pray together as a triad about what you could discuss next as you approach the end of a series or discussion guide. All of the discussion options below are available in the web store.

FORMAT

Ramp Up (10-15 min.) Check in with what’s going on in each other’s lives or ask an icebreaker question.

Discussion (30-60 min.) See options below.

Wrap Up (15 min.) “How can we pray for each other?”

DISCUSSION OPTIONS

[The Complete Book of Questions: 1001 Conversation Starters for Any Occasion](#)

Simply choose a few questions to discuss each time you meet. Note that numbers 801 to 1001 are about spiritual matters. Use the informal guidelines above to develop simple guidelines that would be a good fit for your discussions.

[Q Place Bible Conversation Cards](#) or [Bible Discussion Pages](#)

Choose from these options if a study guide is likely to be intimidating but your group shows interest in the Bible itself. Bible Conversation Cards have a standard meeting format, a set of questions that work well for many Scripture passages, and a list of six short passages to discuss. The reverse side of each card also provides guidelines for your group. Bible Discussion Pages are also topical, providing Scripture with a set of questions that is uniquely designed to fit each passage. The most updated set of cards and pages are available through the Q Place web store. Here is a sample of available topics:

Bible Conversation Cards

Anxiety
 Can I Know God Personally?
 Does My Life Have Meaning?
 How Can Psalms Help Us Pray?
 Is There More to Life than This?
 Fulfillment and Purpose
 Marriage
 Parenting
 Where’s God When I Hurt?
 Who Is Jesus?

Bible Discussion Pages

“How Can I Know God Personally?”
 Bible Discussions in Times of Crisis
 Christmas Discussions
 Easter Discussions
 Thanksgiving Discussions

Explore God Videos

This series is also available at QPlace.com in [Video Resources](#) when you sort by the Explore God category. (ExploreGod.com also provides discussion questions with the videos.) The first time you meet, and when anyone new joins the group, give informal guidelines like these for your discussion:

- The group is an opportunity for all of us to consider what we think about lots of spiritual issues.
- We'll watch two short films and then discuss them, poke holes in them, agree, or disagree.
- There's nothing for you to prepare each week, and you can participate at whatever level you feel comfortable.
- This group is about discussion and exploring important questions together.
- I'm on the journey just like you. The reality is that none of us has it all figured out. We all have questions and we can probably learn something from everyone.
- Let's agree to be respectful of each other's views and not argue or debate. We're here to foster great conversation around some of the most important questions we all have.

Q Place Bible Study Guides

Go through a sample discussion with your group so they can see what it would be like before they commit to the study. In the Q Place web store, click "View Sample" to download and print a sample of any Q Place Bible study guide. (We highly recommend the Mark 2 sample study.)

Q Place Bible Studies have guidelines printed inside each book, and Guidelines Cards are also available in Group Tools at QPlace.com so that you can print, cut, and share them with every participant.

We recommend one the following beginning study guides:

[*Mark: Discover Jesus*](#) (the most common starting point)

[*Foundations for Faith*](#)

[*Conversations with Jesus*](#)

[*They Met Jesus*](#)

[*The Passion of Jesus*](#) (great for people from a heritage of observing Lent)

[*Genesis*](#) (great for Jewish or Muslim participants)