

# Group Effectiveness Checklist

Periodic evaluation helps keep a group focused, healthy, and productive. After several times together (and whenever a checkup would be helpful), go through these questions as a group.

## Are we making discoveries together?

- \* Do we come expecting and willing to learn?
- \* Do we summarize and restate ideas?
- \* Do we draw on what we have already discussed and discovered together?
- \* Do we stay on the main thoughts of the passage or issue to discover all we can?
- \* Do we apply what we learn personally and honestly?
- \* When discussing the Bible, do we avoid referring to outside sources as the groups' authority (such as sermons, notes in the Bible, TV, movies, books, stories)?
- \* Do we prepare before we come to the discussion?

## What is the group climate?

- \* Are all contributions accepted and valued?
- \* Is everyone listened to and encouraged to participate?
- \* Is it safe to express one's feelings and struggles?

## Are we practicing healthy group behavior?

- \* Do we refrain from side conversations during the group discussion time?
- \* Do we recognize tangents and make a point of putting them on hold until after the discussion?
- \* Do we avoid monopolizing the discussion?
- \* Do we try to get beyond tunnel vision (seeing only one issue)?
- \* Are we sensitive to needs without becoming a therapy group (trying to solve each other's problems)?
- \* Are we giving honest responses rather than saying only what we think is expected?
- \* Are we maintaining the purpose of the group discussions rather than using the time and connections for business concerns or for selling things (such as candy, tickets, etc.)?
- \* If we have decided to pray together in our group, are we keeping prayers short, simple, specific, suitable, and safe?
- \* Do we call or email when we are unable to attend our group?
- \* Do we make attendance a high priority and come on time?
- \* Do we end the discussion on time?