

# TRIAL MEETING FORMAT

## B: BIBLE DISCUSSION SAMPLE

As everyone arrives, follow the plan\* that you as facilitators have set in advance, making the space welcoming, greeting everyone warmly, keeping on track with the time, and helping the group grow comfortable with each other.

\* Use the Quickstart Guide, in [Coaching Resources](#), Session 6 at QPlace.com.

### Welcome (1 min.)

Thank everyone for coming. Tell them how long the meeting will last and what time you'll end. Explain this kind of group and your role as both facilitators and participants.

### Introductions (10 min.)

Ask everyone to give their name, where they live, and a favorite hobby. Go first, keeping it to a minute.

### Ask Icebreaker Question(s) (10-20 min.)

Respond first, modeling how much time to take, and giving everyone time to think. Examples:

- *Where are you from and what did living there teach you about life?*
- *What was the best time of your life? 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?*

### Sample a Bible Discussion

Provide Bibles, printed Scripture, or a link to Mark 2.

Explain that you are going to sample a discussion of the Bible from the book of Mark, and that it's important to have guidelines for the discussion so everyone understands how this kind of group will work.

### Go through Group Guidelines (5 min.)

Pass around Group Guidelines cards and ask for a volunteer to read the ten guidelines. After each guideline is read you can add any comments that you think would be helpful. Ask someone else to read the Discussion Tips.

[See reverse side]

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### Use the Mark Sample (15 min.)

(No need to print the questions for everyone.)

Have someone read Mark 2:1-12. Ask the questions in the [Mark 2](#) sample discussion so everyone gets the idea of what this would be like.

### Wrap Up and Conclude (10 min.)

#### 1. Affirm the group's participation and suggest meeting again.

*I have really enjoyed our time together! . . . What did you think? . . . I would love to have more discussions like this with you.*

#### 2. Give option(s).

*If we were to meet again, what do you think about this idea?* [pre-select option(s) to offer]

- *We could go through the whole book of Mark, seeing the life of Jesus using a discussion guide with questions like the ones we tried out today.*
- *We could choose a different topic and see what the Bible says about that.* [Give examples like how to deal with anxiety or choose a Level 1 option that fits your group.]

#### 3. Ask who is interested.

*Which option sounds most intriguing?*

*Who's in? You could also invite other friends who might be interested.*

#### 4. Share contact information.

#### 5. Discuss details.

*What day, time, and location would work for you?*

Explain how you will get discussion guides to them and how much they cost.

As participants are leaving, be sure to thank each one for coming.

After the meeting, 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.

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