

THE SWITCH

/// YOUR MONDAY REVOLUTION



GROUP HOST GUIDE

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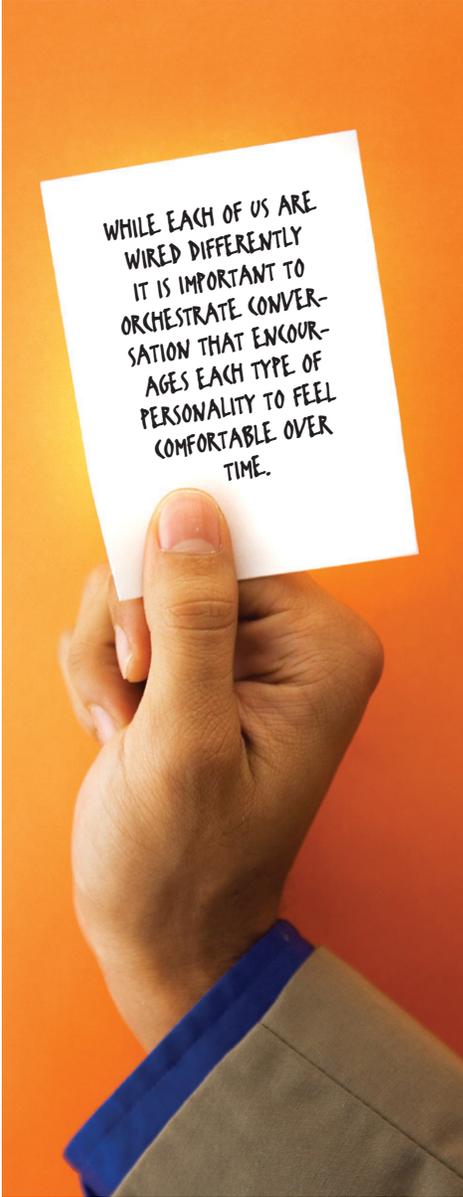


HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP LEADERS

Remember: it is GOD alone who has assembled your group and given you the opportunity to lead. Without question it is GOD who will supply the grace and the strength to guide you and your group through this series.

REVIEW THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS TO ASSIST YOU AS YOU LEAD YOUR GROUP:

- 1 God is in charge.** Rely solely on him and be faithful in prayer for strength and wisdom. You were not selected to do this on your own nor were you selected to serve without being served. Be open and willing for how GOD wants to use you to lead while He alone does His work in you.
- 2 Thrive.** You will be leading your group through an exhilarating journey of experiencing God's purpose, peace and power in their work. God's desire is that they Thrive at work, not merely survive.
- 3 Be Prepared.** Be prepared to review and discuss the sessions before your group arrives. Simply review the DVD session and small group overview in advance.
- 4 Be open.** GOD wants to use you as you are – where you are in your own journey to connect with those in your group. Most importantly, as a group support each other in prayer while ensuring a safe harbor of confidentiality. Honor each other by listening, encouraging, praying and keeping confidentiality as a non-negotiable principle.
- 5 Encourage Participation.** While each of us are wired differently it is important to orchestrate conversation that encourages each type of personality to feel comfortable over time.
- 6 Have fun.** This is not a task on your to-do list. This is GOD at work through your willingness to lead. Often groups begin with dinner where social connection becomes a key ingredient to trusting each other and growing together.
- 7 Ask for input.** Be flexible on how you lead and how the group wishes to refine the amount of time spent and the flow of the session. There is not one perfect way.
- 8 Pray.** Pray often and pray consistently and in cooperation with reading the Bible daily. Your strength and sustenance will come from reading and seeking GOD in prayer. Surrender your own ideas and agendas in advance and replace them with inviting GOD to lead you and your group.



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GROUP HOST TIPS:

HOST TIP 1

Your group may vary in size, time availability, or stage of maturity. Be flexible and work with what god has put together.

HOST TIP 2

Remind each group member to read the session "overview" before coming to the group meeting. Begin each group time with the "monday check in" followed by the "showtime feature video".

HOST TIP 3

If your group is unable to work through the entire session, then select just a couple of the first questions in "working it out". Be sure to point out the "switch it on actions for the next week.

HOST TIP 4

Break into subgroups of three or four people for prayer time or personal sharing. This is especially important if your group has more than eight members.



HONOR EACH OTHER

GROUP ATTENDANCE

We want to give priority to the group meeting. Please call or email if you will be late or can't attend.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

We want to create a safe place where you share and feel loved. So we won't give quick answers, snap judgments or simple fixes.

RESPECT DIFFERENCES

We will be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We will keep anything that is shared strictly confidential.

ENCOURAGE GROWTH

We will make a conscious effort to reach out to others and share our spiritual life. We will use the unique spiritual talents God has given us.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS

We will keep an open chair so that God might bring someone new to our group.

SHARED OWNERSHIP

We will remember that each of us is a minister and will share team responsibilities.

ROTATE LEADERS

We want to have the option to encourage different people to host the group and lead the meeting.

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HELPS FOR HOSTS

TOP TEN IDEAS FOR NEW HOSTS

As you prepare to facilitate your group, whether it is one session or the entire series, here are a few thoughts to keep in mind. We encourage you to read and review these tips with each new discussion host before he or she leads.

- 1. Remember you are not alone.** God knows everything about you, and He knew you would be asked to facilitate your group. Even though you may not feel ready, this is common for all good hosts. God promises, "I will never leave you; I will never abandon you" (Hebrews 13:5 TEV). Whether you are facilitating for one evening, several weeks, or a lifetime, you will be blessed as you serve.
- 2. Others are there to help you.** Pray right now for God to help you build a healthy team. If you can enlist a co-host to help you with the group, you will find your experience much richer. This is your chance to involve as many people as you can in building a healthy group. All you have to do is ask people to help. You'll be surprised at the response.
- 3. Be friendly and be yourself.** God wants to use your unique gifts and temperament. Be sure to greet people at the door with a big smile. This can set the mood for the whole gathering. Remember, they are taking a big step to show up! Don't try to do things exactly like another host; do them in a way that fits you. Admit when you don't have an answer and apologize when you make a mistake. Your group will love you for it and you'll sleep better at night.
- 4. Prepare for your meeting ahead of time.** Review the sessions. Write down your responses to each question. Pay special attention to exercises that ask group members to do something other than engage in discussion. These exercises will help your group live what the Bible teaches, not just talk about it. Be sure you understand how an exercise works.
- 5. Pray for your group members by name.** Before you begin your session, take a few moments and pray for each member by name. You may want to review the prayer list at least once a week. Ask God to use your time together to touch the heart of every person in your group. Expect God to lead you to whomever he wants you to encourage or challenge in a special way. If you listen, God will surely lead.
- 6. When you ask a question, be patient.** Someone will eventually respond. Sometimes people need a moment or two of silence to think about the question. If silence doesn't bother you, it won't bother anyone else. After someone responds, affirm the response with a simple "thanks" or "great answer." Then ask, "How about somebody else?" or "Would someone who hasn't shared like to add anything?" Be sensitive to new people or reluctant members who aren't ready to say, pray, or do anything. Let them know how important they are to you—that they are loved and appreciated, and that the group would value their input.
- 7. Provide transitions between questions.** Ask if anyone would like to read the paragraph or Bible passage. Don't call on anyone, but ask for a volunteer, and then be patient until someone begins. Be sure to thank the person who reads aloud.
- 8. Break into smaller groups occasionally.** With a greater opportunity to talk in a small circle, people will connect more with the study, apply more quickly what they're learning, and ultimately get more out of their small group experience. A small circle also encourages a quiet person to participate and tends to minimize the effects of a more vocal or dominant member. Small circles are also helpful during prayer time. People who are unaccustomed to praying aloud will feel more comfortable trying it with just two or three others. Also, prayer requests won't take as much time, so circles will have more time to actually pray. When you gather back with the whole group, you can have one person from each circle briefly update everyone on the prayer requests from their sub-groups. The other great aspect of sub-grouping is that it fosters leadership development. As you ask people in the group to facilitate discussion or to lead a prayer circle, it gives them a small leadership step that can build their confidence.
- 9. Rotate facilitators occasionally.** You may be perfectly capable of hosting each time, but you will help others grow in their faith and gifts if you give them opportunities to host the group.
- 10. One final challenge.** Before your first opportunity to lead, look up each of the passages listed below. Read each one as a devotional exercise to help prepare your heart. Matthew 9:36–38, John 10:14–15, 1 Peter 5:2–4, Philippians 2:1–5, Hebrews 10:23–25, 1 Thessalonians 2:7–8, 11–12