

One Anothering in Small Groups

Healthy Group Norms

Aiming to be men & women who...

- Will never betray **confidentiality**. What is said in the group stays in the group. "Your story is yours to tell—not mine. I will ask your permission if I want to pass anything on from your story."
- Will seek to be my **true self**. We have all found ways to hide and pretend. I will do my best to learn not to hide, play games, impress (especially with "spiritual" language, uninvited advice, "fixing").
- Will respect **difference**. In whatever form it comes! You can be as involved or distant as you wish. Others can do the same. Relaxed conversation—no "pressuring" others to your view or stance on things.
- Will avoid **collusion**. No "secret" conversations about what is happening in the group that others in the group don't know about. Conflict, tensions and violations of love are inevitable with sinners like us. We'll aim to deal with that together (kindly) in God's family.
- Will work to learn to be **curious & intrigued** about what God is up to. We are each a work in progress. None of us has arrived. So many offer "answers" rather than presence and attentiveness. As we offer one another genuine & sustained interest & prayer, we'll look for God at work in each of us, but stay open to how He may do His surprising work.
- So I will raise the bar on my **listening** skills. But be patient with me. Listening is tough for all of us. No one listens well all the time, but I'll work at it, and try to avoid distractions. I'll also do my utmost to be on time and respect start and finish times.
- **Crucial Guidelines**. I won't **dominate** conversation. I won't **interrupt**. I won't give unasked-for **advice**. I will learn to honour **silence**. If I've got nothing to say, I'll say nothing. I'll be open to others asking me questions, but reserve the right to not answer, or not at the moment. If I'm invited to offer feedback, I'll try to speak the truth in love, not half-say or hint at what I mean.