

# How to: Welcome a new person to your Small Group

Showing up to a Small Group for the first time can be a very scary experience. A guest to your group does not know many or any people who are in the group, they do not know what to expect the group to be like, and they will likely be nervous. There is no way to eliminate all fear and anxiety from people coming to our group, but we can be welcoming and hospitable to minimize that fear and help people to find a community where they can be loved, love others, and grow to be more like Jesus. Here are some simple steps to welcome a guest:

## Before a new person arrives

As you or a group member are inviting a guest to your group you should try to begin to shape and inform their expectations by telling them about:

- When to arrive and how long the group meets
- What happens
- What they should bring

## As the group is meeting

1. Be welcoming and encourage your group members to be welcoming
  - a. Engage them in conversation
    - i. Introduce yourself
    - ii. Ask their name
    - iii. Ask how they learned about the group
    - iv. Ask where they work(ed)
    - v. Ask where they live
  - b. Introduce them to other people in the group
  - c. Find them a seat and sit with them
2. Take time for everyone in the group to share their names
  - a. Do this for 3 or 4 weeks in a row so that the guest has a fighting chance at remembering peoples names
3. Take time for everyone in the group to share a little about themselves
  - a. This can be done as an ice-breaker for a few weeks in a row
    - i. Tell us your name, where you are from, and where you work
    - ii. Tell us your name, your favorite dessert
    - iii. Favorite sports team, hobby, favorite place to visit, etc.
  - b. This can also be done by giving each person a couple minutes to give a brief background and some facts about themselves
4. After a week or two, share what the purpose of the group is. A good place to start would be to review with the whole group the Core Values and Commitments.

In order to do this well as a group we will need to train our group members on weeks when there are no guests so that when a guest does come, we are ready to welcome and engage.