

leader's notes

valuable resources for leaders to help facilitate group interaction and growth with r12 lessons

- group agreement
- tips for leading
- building relationships beyond your group
- meeting
- prayer & praise
- group roster

group agreement

People come to groups with a variety of different expectations. The purpose of a group agreement is simply to make sure everyone is on the same page and that we have some common expectations.

The following Group Agreement is a tool to help you discuss specific guidelines together during your first meeting. Modify anything that does not work for your group, then be sure to discuss the questions on the next page under "Our Game Plan." This will help you to have an even greater group experience!

WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES

Take the Bible Seriously	To seek to understand and apply God's truth in the Bible
Group Attendance	To give priority to the group meeting (Call if I am going to be absent or late)
Safe Environment	To create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no snap judgments or simple fixes)
Be Confidential	To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group
Spiritual Health	To give group members permission to help me live a godly, healthy spiritual life that is pleasing to God
Building Relationships	To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly
Prayer	To regularly pray with and for each other
Other	

OUR GAME PLAN

- Will we have refreshments? _____
- What will we do about childcare? _____
- What day and time will we meet? _____
- Where will we meet? _____
- How long will we meet each week? _____

tips for leading your group

BEFORE THE GROUP ARRIVES

1. **Be prepared.** Your personal preparation can make a huge difference in the quality of the group experience. We strongly suggest previewing both the DVD teaching by Chip Ingram and the study guide.
2. **Pray for your group members by name.** Ask God to use your time together to touch the heart of every person in your group. Expect God to challenge and change people as a result of this study.
3. **Provide refreshments.** There's nothing like food to help a group relax and connect with each other. For the first week, we suggest you prepare a snack, but that after that, ask other group members to bring food so that they share in the responsibilities of the group and make a commitment to return.
4. **Relax.** Don't try to imitate someone else's style of leading a group. Lead the group in a way that fits your style and temperament. Remember that people may feel nervous showing up for a small group study, so put them at ease when they arrive. Make sure to have all the details covered prior to your group meeting, so that once people start arriving, you can focus on them.



GAME FILM (WATCH THE VIDEO)

1. **Get the video ready.** Each video session is clearly indicated on the DVD menu. Be sure to test your video equipment ahead of time and make sure you have located this week's lesson on the DVD menu.
2. **Have ample materials.** Before you start the video, also make sure everyone has their own copy of the study guide. Encourage the group to open this week's session and follow along with the teaching. There is an outline in the study guide with an opportunity to fill in the outline.
3. **Arrange the room.** Set up the chairs in the room so that everyone can see the television. And, arrange the room in such a way that it is conducive to discussion.


HUDDLE UP

Here are some guidelines for leading the discussion time:

- 1. Make this a discussion, not a lecture.** Resist the temptation to do all the talking, and to answer your own questions. Don't be afraid of a few moments of silence while people formulate their answers.

And don't feel like you need to have all the answers. There is nothing wrong with simply responding "I don't know the answer to that, but I'll see if I can find an answer this week."

- 2. Encourage everyone to participate.** Don't let one person dominate, but also don't pressure quieter members to speak during the first couple of sessions. After one person answers, don't immediately move on; ask what other people think or say, "Would someone who hasn't shared like to add anything?"
- 3. Affirm people's participation and input.** If an answer is clearly wrong, ask "What led you to that conclusion?" or ask what the rest of the group thinks. If a disagreement arises, don't be too quick to shut it down! The discussion can draw out important perspectives, and if you can't resolve it there, offer to research it further and return to the issue next week.

However, if someone goes on the offensive and engages in personal attack of another person, you will need to step in as the leader. In the midst of spirited discussion, we must also remember that people are fragile and there is no place for disrespect.

- 4. Detour when necessary.** If an important question is raised that is not in the study guide, take time to discuss it. Also, if someone shares something personal and emotional, take time for them. Stop and pray for them right then. Try to keep the group on track, but allow the Holy Spirit room to maneuver, and follow his prompting when the discussion changes direction.

5. **Subgroup.** One of the principles of small group life is “when numbers go up, sharing goes down” So, if you have a large group, sometimes you may want to split up into groups of 3-5 for the discussion time. This is a great way to give everyone, even the quieter members, a chance to say something. Choose someone in the group to guide each of the smaller groups through the discussion. This involves others in the leadership of the group, and provides an opportunity for training new leaders.
6. **Pray.** Be sensitive to the fact that some people in your group may be uncomfortable praying out loud. As a general rule, don't call on people to pray unless you have asked them ahead of time or have heard them pray in public. But this can also be a time to help people build their confidence to pray in a group. Consider having prayer times that ask people to just say a word or sentence of thanks to God.



MAKE A PLAY

These simple suggestions will help you apply the lesson. Be sure to leave adequate time to talk about these practical applications of the lesson. This is a great way to build group community. Try these ideas together and hold each other accountable for completing them, then share the following week how it went.

A FINAL WORD...

Keep an eye on the clock. Be sensitive to time. Whatever is the agreed upon time commitment, try to stick with it. It is always better to finish the meeting with people wanting “more” rather than people walking away stressed out because the meeting went long.

building relationships beyond your group meeting

1. **Be sure to collect everyone's name, e-mail, and phone number.** This is so that the group can stay in touch with each other. Send out an e-mail list to everyone in the group.
2. **Get the group to interact outside the group;** encourage e-mailing , texting, or calling each other during the week to share good news, a prayer concern, or a lesson learned.
3. **Contact anyone who misses a group meeting,** and ask another couple of people to do so as well.
4. **Get together for at least one fellowship event apart from your group meeting.** This could be as simple as sharing a meal together.
5. **Be sensitive to what is going on in the lives of your group...** (birthday, anniversary, illness, job interview). Use these opportunities to bless them with notes, cards, or meals.
6. **Get others involved in order to give them a sense of ownership.** Ask for help with e-mailing prayer requests to the group, planning a fellowship event, leading the discussion, or providing the refreshments.
7. **Pray regularly** for each member of the group by name.

group roster

NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

THE COACH'S MANDATE

Pray as though nothing of eternal value is going to happen in my athletes' lives unless God does it.

Prepare each practice and game, giving my utmost for His highest.

Seek not to be served by my athletes for personal gain, but serve them as Christ served the church.

Be satisfied not with producing a winning record, but with producing winning athletes.

Attend carefully to my private and public walk with God, knowing that the athlete will never rise to a standard higher than that being lived by the coach.

Glorify Christ in my coaching, trusting the Lord will then draw athletes to Himself.

Desire to have a growing hunger for God's Word, a transformed heart and daily obedience.

Depend solely upon God for transformation, one athlete at a time.

Live out Christ's word in a Christ-like manner, on and off the field of competition.

Recognize that it is impossible to bring glory to both myself and Christ at the same time.

Allow my coaching to produce the fruit of the Spirit, thus producing athletes who are authentic followers of Christ.

Trust God to reveal to my athletes His chosen purposes, regardless of whether the wins are clearly visible.

Coach with humble gratitude, as one privileged to be God's coach.





A Romans 12 Guide
For Coaches To Live As
Authentic Disciples
of Jesus Christ

Being a genuine disciple of Christ flows out of a relationship with Him. It's about experiencing God's grace, not earning His love through performance. Coaches have a platform to influence their teams, communities, and even the world. The issue is, how will coaches use this influence? What does it look like to be a coach that has a huge impact and leaves a legacy? This series will bring TRUE spirituality into focus and help you be an authentic Christian coach.

r12 Coach

Romans 12 provides a picture of how an authentic disciple of Jesus Christ lives out his or her faith...

Surrendered to God	Romans 12:1
Separate from the world	Romans 12:2
Sober in self-assessment	Romans 12:3-8
Serving in love	Romans 12:9-13
Supernaturally responding to evil with good	Romans 12:14-21



Fellowship of Christian Athletes
8701 Leeds Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64129
fca.org/r12coach.com

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Chip Ingram's passion is to help Christians really live like Christians. As a pastor, author, coach, and teacher for twenty-five years, Chip has helped people around the world break out of spiritual ruts to live out God's purpose for their lives. Today, he serves as senior pastor of Venture Christian Church in Los Gatos, California, and president of Living on the Edge – an international teaching and discipleship ministry. He is the author of eleven books, including *Overcoming Emotions That Destroy* and *Good to Great in God's Eyes*. Chip and his wife, Theresa, have four children and eight grandchildren.