

Option 1: First meeting, or first meeting after a longer season of rest.

Welcome Everyone

Thank everyone for coming, give a two-minute warning, and begin circling up to orient the group. Remember, tonight is about relationships and vision.

You want this conversation to feel like we're a family who is also on mission together because that's what we are!

Get to Know One Another (Larger Group - 10-15 minutes)

- Have everyone share their name,
- If you have new people ask about how long they have been at Jubilee
- What do you hope to get out of CG this semester
- how did your BLESS challenge go?

Create Clear Expectations (Larger group - 5-10 minutes)

Attend - We need you, and you need us, so let's all be here for one another and prioritize CG

- **Contribute** - Each of us has something to bring: encouragement, a song, a question, truth about God, etc.
- **Serve** - Serve as opportunities arise to do childcare, bring snacks, care for one another, etc.
- **Be Prayerful** - Be prayerful for your own soul and for group members
- **Be Transparent** - You can't do this with everyone, but you can with 2-3 others in the group
- **Be Caring** - Pick 1-2 people in the group you are going to invest significantly in through prayer, service, relational care, and possibly a mentoring relationship

Set Up a Few Administrative Functions (Larger Group - 5-10 minutes)

1. Gather contact info for everyone in the group
2. Pass out semester calendars and explain general rhythms
 - a. Discussion groups 3 times per month
 - b. "IN" or "OUT" activity once per month
 - c. OR you could do: "IN" or "OUT" Rhythm - Discussion groups 6 times - "IN" or "OUT" Rhythm

Thank the Group and Pray (Smaller Group - 5-10 minutes to pray in groups of 2-3)

Thank everyone again for coming and speak a word of vision (i.e. "I believe God has great things for us this semester: individually, and as a group. Let's end our night asking God to do a great work in us this semester and thank Him for bringing us together").

Close in prayer (Larger Group - 5 minutes) Have 2-3 people pray out then close.

Option 2: Discussion guide for Matthew 16:24-27

Discussion guide: Mysteries Explained: The Wheat and the Tares

Text: Matthew 16:24-27

For group discussion to be fruitful and engaging for everyone in your group, make sure that your discussion groups are not larger than 4 people. If possible, break up into groups of 2 or 3.

Larger Group: (10-15 minutes)

- Welcome everyone back
- Remind everyone why we are together
- Healthy groups have healthy rhythms that empower us to grow more and better disciples. The rhythms that we have discovered are present in each healthy group are: UP (growing in Christ), IN (developing relationships), OUT (serving others) with a Multiplication Mindset (developing leaders and multiplying groups).

Tonight we're focused on growing UP and IN.

Smaller Groups: (25- 30 minutes)

Give the following instructions and break into small groups (2-3 people).

Break into small groups and have everyone turn to Matthew 16:24-27

After having someone read the passage please use the following questions in the following way.

- Read the question.
- Have each person respond to the question by going around the circle giving space for discussion and questions around each person's response.

Discussion questions:

1. How would you retell or summarize this passage? (Understanding)
2. What is God saying to me through these verses? (Listening)
3. How will I respond to what God is saying to me? (Obeying and next step of faith).

Pray and minister with each person after they answer #3 rather than the whole group at once)

Larger group: (10-15 minutes)

Allow time to pray for the lost, end with B.L.E.S.S.

Where are group members in the B.L.E.S.S. process? Model for them how to answer briefly, for example:

"I'm praying for _____".

"I have been having good conversations with _____".

"I'm having lunch with _____
on _____ (day of the week)."