



Healthy Groups Keep A Balance In What They Do: Spend equal amounts of time connecting with each other (Fellowship), prayer and sharing how God is working in your life (Worship), growing in your faith through study and discussion (Discipleship), serving others both inside and outside your group (Ministry), and reaching out to those around with the message of Jesus Christ (Evangelism).

PREPARE:

- ⊙ How are you doing? Catch us up on your life. What has been a high and a low in your life since this group last met? How have you seen God work in your life since this group last met?
- ⊙ When you have something that needs to be assembled do you read and follow the instructions-or-...?
- ⊙ When, during your life, have you exhibited the most courage? Briefly share about that time with the group.

GROW:

- ⊙ *The Israelites are about to be free of captivity after hundreds of years of enslavement by the Egyptians but their courage and faith in God seems to be a little slack...*
- ⊙ Read Exodus 13: 17-18
- ⊙ Why would the Israelites want to return to enslavement in Egypt instead of pursuing freedom?
- ⊙ Why would the Israelites doubt that God could take care of them in war after they had watched the 10 plagues that God had brought upon the Egyptians?
- ⊙ Are there times today that we are spiritual cowards? Are there times that we are afraid to fully trust God and instead choose to remain stuck in a terrible situation? When?

- ⊙ Read Exodus 13: 19-22
- ⊙ God's presence by day in a pillar of cloud and by night in a pillar of fire must have been dramatic. Did His presence in this manner help the Israelites to trust and follow God? Why or why not?
- ⊙ If God revealed His presence in our midst via a pillar of cloud or fire do you think we would be more or less focused upon Him today? Why?
- ⊙ What would it take for you to more fully put your trust in God? *A pillar of fire? God guaranteeing your job and income? World Peace? Or?...*
- ⊙ Is trust in God external or internal? (i.e. Does trust in God come as a result of occurrences in the world around you or because of something that occurs in your heart?)





PRAYER:

- ⊙ Have your group's prayer coordinator close your group time in the throne room of God.
- ⊙ Consider praying in one the following ways:
 - ⇒ Go around the circle and have each person pray what is on their heart.
 - ⇒ Break into small groups and spend time letting each group share deeper and then close with prayer.
 - ⇒ Go around the circle and lift the person on your left up in prayer.
 - ⇒ Place someone in the middle of the circle who has special prayer needs. Have everyone place their hands upon them and lift that person up in prayer.
 - ⇒ If your group has children let the adults pray together and then bring the children into the group so that the adults can circle around them and pray.
 - ⇒ Everyone get down on their knees and earnestly lift your requests to God.
 - ⇒ Sing a song of prayer to God.
 - ⇒ Let the women of the group pray for the men and then let the men of the group pray for the women.
 - ⇒ Spend an extended amount of time at the beginning of your group time after you have shared with each other how things are going in your life.