



J•GROUPS

## Frequently Asked Questions

*A J-Group leader FAQ to help answer some "What ifs" that pop up during group*

- **How can I recruit people to come to my group?**
  - Start with people who are already in your sphere of influence (co-workers, friends, and neighbors).
  - Find people around you who are new to the church, are new believers, or have shown interest in getting involved.
  - Look for people you think you can help realize their potential.
  - Ask God to send the right people to your group.
  
- **What is the policy on groups and alcohol?**
  - Based on what the scripture says, we do not believe it is a sin to drink alcoholic beverages. However, the Bible is very clear that drunkenness is a sin – Ephesians 5:18 says “Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.” We hold that same belief.
  - I’d like to point you toward a podcast from "Hot Seat Weekend" where Pastor Mark answered questions about many spiritual and cultural topics. You can find the podcast here: <http://yourjourney.tv/media.php?pageID=5>. Scroll down to "Hot Seat Weekend Part 1" from 9/7/13 and he answers a question what the Bible says about alcohol beginning at 5:20.
  
- **How do I handle a private/sensitive situation with a member of the opposite sex?**
  - First and foremost, we trust your judgment. These are some steps to take:
    - Are you personally comfortable handling this issue?
    - If not, assure your group member that you care for them and want to make sure they receive proper care. Explain that being of the opposite sex, you don’t feel this is something you can handle yourself. Make them understand your reasoning, and, again, that you care.
    - Ask if they feel comfortable with you seeking out someone better suited to walk with them through this situation.
      - If yes, contact your mentor who will approach a leader of the same sex to reach out to them.
      - If no, then gently remind that you are not comfortable handling the situation and if you cannot refer them, they should try talking to another member of your group of the same sex
    - Follow up with your group member to determine that he/she feels supported.
  
- **How do I handle a sensitive situation with any group member?**
  - First and foremost, we trust your judgment. These are some steps to consider:
    - Are you personally comfortable handling this issue?
    - If not, assure your group member that you care for them and want to

make sure they receive proper care. Offer to do things you're comfortable with (praying for them, sending encouragements, etc).

- Ask if they feel comfortable with you seeking assistance for them through either your mentor and/or the Care Team.
- If yes, contact your mentor and/or the Care Team for advisement. If no, please still make your mentor aware of the issue in a way you feel comfortable (as a prayer request for an unnamed group member, etc).
- **What do I do if someone is making unwanted advances on me or someone in my group?**
  - As leaders, it is our responsibility to do what we're able to ensure all who attend our J-Group are comfortable. With that said, please use your own judgment and follow the below steps:
    - Have a conversation with that individual. We know this can be intimidating; use your mentor as a resource if you need. Inform him/her of the concern, allow a bit of feedback from them, and then set boundaries.
    - If the established boundaries are not being met/sustained, or if you have additional concerns, contact your mentor **immediately**.
- **If an injury occurs during my group, what are the proper procedures?**
  - If any injury occurs during your group, you are empowered to make decisions (along with the injured person) on how to proceed. If the injury is beyond standard first aid, you may contact your coach to inform them of the injury. It is not necessary to contact your mentor, however, because J-Groups take place in homes, etc., and not on Journey property.
- **What if my group members stop participating during group or taking next steps?**
  - Unfortunately, we are unable to force people to grow. We care for them and want to see development through a semester...so let them know that! If you choose to have a conversation with them, ensure you are being as encouraging as possible. Explain to them what you see for them and why you want to see growth.
- **Is there a resource available listing icebreakers? If not, can we create one/where can I look for ideas?**
  - There are several great resources on the internet, such as:  
[http://insight.typepad.co.uk/40\\_icebreakers\\_for\\_small\\_groups.pdf](http://insight.typepad.co.uk/40_icebreakers_for_small_groups.pdf)
  - If you try some new icebreakers that are a huge hit, be sure to pass it along to your mentor.
- **Are people allowed to attend our group who do not attend TJ nor do they intend to?**
  - Absolutely! We welcome any chance to help people find Jesus and follow him fully, regardless of their intentions to attend our church.
- **How can I share stories of life change from our J-Group semester?**
  - We love hearing about lives that are changed through J-Groups. You can share your stories with your Mentor or email us at [journeygroups@yourjourney.tv](mailto:journeygroups@yourjourney.tv)
- **How should I handle a group member who does not want to participate in our service project?**
  - If you notice that a group member isn't interested in participating in a service project, approach them and try to figure out why.

- o Explain to them why serving is so important to our church as whole as well as to J-Groups and to you personally. i.e.: We believe that people grow best when they are in three environments where they are allowed to *gather*, *connect* and *serve*. Serving gives us the opportunity to use our personality and gifts to grow and to invest in the lives of others.
  - o If you are still concerned, notify your coach.
- In most people-centered situations that we encounter during a semester, a leader can use our “Dealing with Difficult Personalities” handout. The following are all examples of when that resource would be utilized:
  - o What if two group members aren’t getting along?
  - o What if one person dominates the group conversation?
  - o What if no one wants to speak up during discussion time?
  - o What if someone consistently arrives/stays late?
  - o What if someone tends to use group as “gossip time?”
  - o How do I break up a theological fight in my group?