

Circle Up

A 4-Part Study to Begin a Group

groupleaders



Circle Up Study Guide

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PART 1

ICEBREAKER

What are Story Cards?

Story Cards are a way to get people talking. You'll be surprised by how the photos help people begin an easy, interesting conversation. Check them out at groupleaders.org/storycards.

If you have Story Cards...

Use the cards to help your group connect.

- 1 Spread the cards out on a table so they're visible to everyone.
- 2 Ask each person to pick a card that describes their response to this question: **Which picture best represents how you think or feel about beginning this group?**
- 3 Go around the room and have everyone explain why they picked the card they did.

If you don't have Story Cards...

Use the following question to help your group connect: **Do any of the words or phrases listed below describe how you're feeling or thinking about this new group?**

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excited | <input type="checkbox"/> "What's in this for me?" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skeptical | <input type="checkbox"/> "This will be good for me/us." |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Optimistic | <input type="checkbox"/> "My spouse made me come." |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guarded | <input type="checkbox"/> "I hope they like me." |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hopeful | <input type="checkbox"/> "Is this worth my time?" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> "Please don't ask me to pray out loud." |



 **START THE VIDEO**

Turn to **Video Notes**
on page 8.

VIDEO NOTES

The goal of a group is to provide everyone the opportunity to pursue authentic community and spiritual growth.

Group is where you are **known** and **grown**.

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

“There are things that can happen in circles that can’t happen any other way. That’s by design. You can’t grow spiritually unless you’re connected relationally. God created us for community. And you’ve already taken the most important first step.”

Life is better connected.

Your role:

- 1 Show up.
- 2 Join in.
- 3 Be real.

START DISCUSSION

Turn to *Let’s Talk About It* on page 10.

GOAL OF GROUP:

TO PROVIDE EVERYONE IN
YOUR GROUP THE
OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE
AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY AND
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

YOUR ROLE:

SHOW UP.
JOIN IN.
BE REAL.



LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- 1 What was the best group or team you've ever been a part of? What made it so great?
- 2 Did that group or team help you grow (e.g., physically, mentally, spiritually)? If so, how?
- 3 Take a minute to individually complete the **How You Connect** activity on page 11. When you're finished, discuss the following questions as a group.

In order to relax and re-energize...

How did you rank yourself?

How does this play out in your life?

In a group conversation...

How did you rank yourself?

In this group, how can we make sure everyone has the chance to speak?

When processing new ideas...

How did you rank yourself?

In this group, how might this affect you when you are studying something new?

When experiencing emotions...

How did you rank yourself?

When you're excited about something, how will the group know?

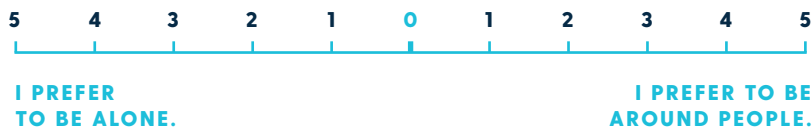
QUESTIONS CONTINUE ON PAGE 12.

ACTIVITY: HOW YOU CONNECT

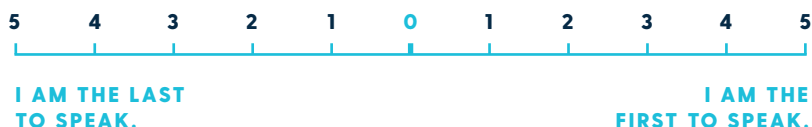
NOTES

Indicate where you fall on the scales below. There are no right or wrong answers—just think about your own tendencies when it comes to connecting with others.

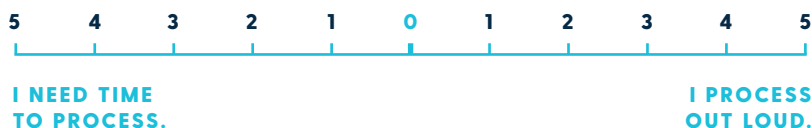
In order to relax and re-energize...



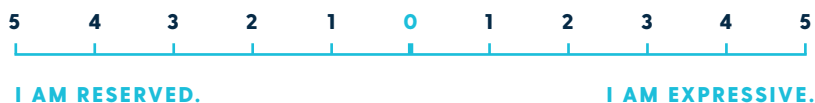
In a group conversation...



When processing new ideas...



When experiencing emotions...

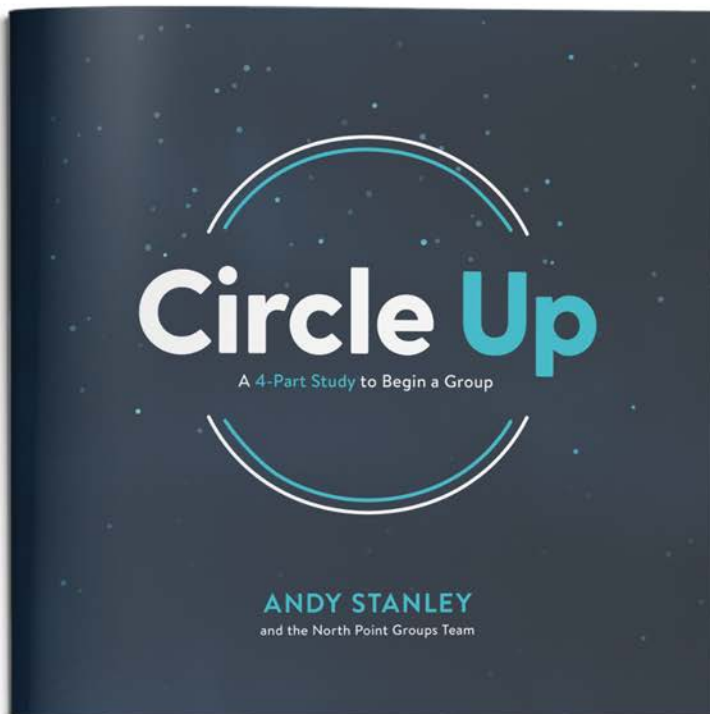


4 In the video, three parts of your role in this group were mentioned: show up, join in, and be real. Showing up is probably the easiest to describe—you prioritize attending this group. But how would you define “join in” and “be real”?

5 How can the group pray for you this week?

Is anything going on that’s causing you stress?

Are you looking forward to something and hoping it goes well?



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