

A STARTING GUIDE FOR HUDDLES

Citylight South exists to glorify God by multiplying Jesus centered disciples and churches of all nations.

Huddles are one way that we intentionally hope to accomplish our mission. So, what is a huddle?

A huddle is typically, but not always, an extension of a City Group. They are a group of 3-5 people of the same gender that meet weekly for discipleship. Discipleship is intentionally growing and equipping believers towards gospel centered biblical maturity in Christ through accountable relationships and empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to replicate followers of Christ.

Hebrews 10 tells us, *“23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

Christian fellowship is vital to the believer’s life, and huddles are a great place for fellowship and discipleship in a smaller setting.

What are the beginning steps of a huddle?

Find a time and place for your huddle to meet. Most groups meet every other week, and this is a great starting point. Block out the decided time in your calendar and make it a priority. :)

The First Huddle Meeting: Each member shares their testimony and the following questions.

- Testimony
 - What is your past story with Jesus?
 - Where are you now in your walk with Christ?

- Other Questions
 - What excites you most about joining a huddle?
 - What are your biggest sin struggles right now?
 - How has God worked in your life recently that incites praise?

Spend some time praying together after you finish the above questions. Before you leave, determine a structure you will use moving forward (see next page for ideas).

Frequently Asked Questions:

How long should a huddle meeting last? Keep your huddle at a one hour **max** to be considerate of people’s time.

How many people should be in a huddle? Four is an ideal number (five works as well). Four is nice because if one person misses, the group can still meet with three people. The general rule of thumb for my huddle is that if we have three or more, we meet. If only two can make it, we push the meeting back one week.

How long should a huddle meet? The desire is to have huddles meet 12-18 months. Hopefully, in that time frame you will be able to raise up the people in your group and multiply and replicate the huddle with others who aren't in a huddle. We desire to make disciples and huddles are a huge way in how we do that!

Traps to be ready for: It becomes just a bible study and information transfer. You study the word and talk about it but it is low on relationship or growing in reaching out to the world. Or, it becomes merely a time to talk about life and there is little accountability or encouragement to know Christ and become more like Him

Any other advice? Create a group text and use it to your advantage. Some huddles text gifs everyday after they read the Word as a way to hold each other accountable. Some huddles text one verse of Scripture from their reading time. Group texts are also nice for adjusting meeting dates and immediate prayer requests.

Recommended Structures

- Recommendation 1:
 - Each week, work through the following blocks:
 - (1) Share Life Updates (20 min) - Each person take 5 minutes to discuss work, relationships, witnessing and any other updates since the last time you met.
 - (2) Share What God is Teaching You (20 min) - Each person take 5 minutes to share a passage of Scripture that has been impactful over the last couple of weeks. Share why it is impactful.
 - (a) (2) can be substituted with one of the following ideas**
 - (i) **Bible Reading** – Everyone in the huddle will read the same passage of Scripture and spend the 20 minutes of block (2) discussing the passage. For example, one of the guys groups has been doing one chapter of Romans every time they meet.
 - (ii) **Book Study** – Find a topic that interests everyone in the huddle, and read a couple chapters between meetings. At huddle meetings, walk through how the book is shaping your view of God. Here are a few book recommendations.
 - 1) *Tactics* by Greg Koukl – Book about *how* to evangelize and various strategies.
 - 2) *Women of the Word* by Jen Wilkin - Gives instruction on how to correctly read the Bible.****Both men and women can read this book****

- 3) *Disciplines of a Godly Man* By R. Kent Hughes - Men's group book challenging men to grow in godliness.
- 4) *Disciplines of a Godly Woman* by Barbara Hughes - Women's group book challenging women to grow in godliness.
- 5) *The Holiness of God* by RC Sproul – Book that shapes your view of God and helps understand the significance of His holiness.
- 6) *The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim Keller – A book for both singles and married couples about God's design for marriage, what to start praying for, and practical ways to love your (future) spouse.
- 7) *Gospel Fluency* by Jeff Vanderstelt
- 8) *Gospel Centered Discipleship* by JK Dodson

(3) Confess Sin (10 min) - Each person takes a couple of minutes to share one sin struggle over the last couple weeks. After everyone has shared, one person read a passage of Scripture that reminds the group that our sin is forgiven by Christ (ex. Ps 103:11, Col 2:13-14, 1 John 1:9). Brainstorm a way to repent of your sin over the next two weeks.

(4) Pray (10 min) - Pray for victory over the confessed sin and for any other prayer requests.

- Recommendation #2

- God's Word

- Scripture - Read the passage
- Observe - What observations did you make?
- Apply - How does this apply to our lives?
- Pray - Pray for God to use this passage in your life

- Repent and confess

- *Be honest and vulnerable!*
- Name the sin/struggle
- Identify the lie
- Point to Jesus and the gospel -
 - What do you need to believe in Jesus?
 - What promise do you need to cling to in Jesus?
 - How does Jesus actually provide you with what you need and desire?
 - What is something that you need to behold in Jesus about who He is and His goodness?

- What is a verse/scripture that you can look to for truth?
- Repent
 - Pray - confess the sin to God, ask for forgiveness, and ask for His help. To help you believe the truth about Jesus, who He has made you, the truths of the gospel. Ask for His help in repenting and to put that sin to death.
 - What to do/next step?
 - to believe those truths and not believe those lies?
 - Continuing relying on the Spirit
 - To be wise to not put yourself in a situation that encourages you towards sin
- Pray
- Outreach
 - What people are we pursuing for Christ?
 - What steps are we going to make towards them this week?
- What's up in your life?
 - What is encouraging you?
 - What is discouraging you?
 - What anxieties do you have?
 - How are you emotionally?
 - How is your marriage?
 - How are your kids?
 - What can we celebrate in your life?

NOTE: These are only suggestions. The great thing about huddles is that they are your own. Please take or leave any of these suggestions and pray through ways that you think God is calling your huddle to grow together.