

MINISTERIAL GROUP FORMAT FOR PRAYER/FAITH SHARING

A ministerial group incorporates the five elements of Small Christian Communities in their meetings differently from an ongoing Small Church Community.

Prayer and faith sharing are incorporated at the beginning of each meeting and each meeting closes with prayer.

By definition, a ministerial community has a mission. Therefore, the elements of learning and mission are incorporated through the meeting itself and the follow up activities.

Prayer and faith sharing are an important part of each meeting. However, since the business of the group must also be accomplished, this portion of the meeting should only take about 30 minutes.

The facilitator should clearly announce at the beginning of the faith sharing that there may not be time for everyone to share. At the 2 minute mark, the timekeeper should announce that there is time for one more sharing before closing.

It is best to share the responsibility for preparation of the faith sharing scriptures and questions among members of the group. Scripture and questions should be written out and distributed to all.

MEETING FORMAT

- I. Song (optional) and opening prayer (can be spontaneous or a written prayer).
- II. Proclaim the scriptures out loud (one member of group). Use only the gospel if you are using the Sunday scriptures. Other scriptures and questions may also be used as appropriate for the group. Faith sharing questions should always be open-ended and related to our personal faith journey. Resources for writing questions are available.
- III. Reflection – if you would like, someone can read one of the brief commentaries available in the Faith Sharing resources. Spend a few moments in quiet reflection.
- IV. Faith sharing – two or three questions can be provided
 - a. Read the question out loud
 - b. Allow about 2-3 minutes for silent reflection
 - c. Each person answer one of the questions briefly
 - d. Facilitator should begin the sharing to model a brief response until the group is comfortable with the format
- V. Closing Prayer – close with a spontaneous or written prayer and then begin the business portion of the meeting

For Faith Sharing Resources: www.goodshepherdparish.org/resources