

Step #2 – God

Prepare

Remind everyone to review the questions ahead of time.

If you didn't have time during the week, take a moment in your meeting to review them.

Share

Give each person space to respond to all the questions.

Each person should have a copy of the questions with them as they share (printed or phone)

Be Present

If you're using a phone, remember to silence notifications!

Apprentice Group Meeting Guide – GOD

“How are we all doing?” (Brief Check In – 10 Minutes)

Share your High (something great), Low (something tough), and Buffalo (anything else that happened in your week).

“Are we all ready?” (Prepare – Done Beforehand or 3-4 Minutes Now)

Review the questions and pray, “Holy Spirit, what do you want to bring into the light?”

“Shall we dive in?” (Scripture – 3 Minutes)

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 out loud. Take a few seconds to reflect in silence, then read it again.

“Let’s take a moment.” (Silence – 2 Minutes)

Like turning a radio to a different station, take 2 minutes in silence to “tune” your heart towards Jesus.

“Who would like to go first?” (Share One at a Time – Set a Timer for 15-20 Minutes)

Set a timer for 15-20 minutes and one person responds to all the questions. Listeners – aim to be present. You can ask follow up questions, but don’t share from your life, offer advice, or give counseling! Consider having the page of **How to Share / How to Listen** in front of you if it is helpful.

1. Consider your story. When have you felt like God saw you and cared for you?
2. When have you felt like God didn’t see you, or has let you down?
3. Do you feel “chosen by God, holy, and dearly loved” (Col. 3:12)?
4. How do you think God sees the powerlessness you shared last week?
5. What would it look like if God came through for you in these next 11 weeks?
6. What would it look like if God let you down in the next 11 weeks?
7. Be honest: do you believe God has power where you are powerless? If so, take a moment, then share this sentence: “*I believe God can bring me freedom in my powerlessness over ____.*”
 - If that is too difficult, share, “*I want to believe that God can bring me freedom in my powerlessness over ____.*”

A Prayer for This Week: A prayer we can pray when we feel powerless is, “*God, this is my powerless moment. I am drawn to _____. Draw me instead to you.*” Would you try this prayer this week?

A Scripture for This Week: A Scripture to keep close this week is Psalm 42:1-2 or Psalm 63:1.

**Don’t worry if you share for less than 15 or 20 minutes, especially in the first few weeks!*

“That’s the timer! Thanks for sharing _____. Let’s pray for you.” (Prayer)

Have someone pray. If you aren’t sure what to say, just say “Please & Thank You” to God.

“Alright, who’s next?” (Everyone Takes a Turn Sharing and Being Prayed For)

“Thanks everyone! Same time next week?” (Confirm Next Meeting & Wrap it Up)

Setting the Stage

- No screens in sight (phone, laptop, TV, smart watch, etc.)
- Prevent interruptions as much as you can (phones silent, smart watch muted or taken off, space from kids/coworkers/family, etc.)
- Sit so everyone can see each other
- Be aware of things that might distract – windows, traffic, hallways, etc.
- Set a timer! You want everyone to have time to share.

How to Share

- Read the question (out loud if you'd like)
- Take a moment to gather your thoughts. Take another moment if you'd like. (You have 15-20 minutes!)
- Start by sharing something (anything!), and then pause if you need before sharing again. Move on to the next question when you're ready.
- *If you're thinking about what to say* - "I just need a moment."
- *If you aren't sure how to say it well, be blunt. You can explain after.* - "I'm not sure how to say this, so I'm just going to say it."
- *If you think there's more to say but aren't sure how to proceed* - "I'm not sure what else to say. Can someone ask me a question?"
- *Give space for others to share – when the timer goes off, bring it to a quick close.*

How to Listen

- Make eye contact, nod, and actively listen ("uh-huh, OK, right, yeah, oh no," etc.)
- *Be OK with silence!* Give the speaker space to form their thoughts as they share.
 - Silence doesn't last as long as you think. If you're really uncomfortable, just count to 10 slowly in your head to give the person time.
- *Be OK with people sharing big stuff!* If someone shares something vulnerable:
 - "That's heavy" or "That's hard" or "That hurts"
 - "Thanks for sharing."
 - "I'm sorry that happened."
 - "That sounds like it was (tough / devastating / awful / etc.) for you."
 - Be OK to respond and then give space - "I'm sorry – that's hard!" followed by silence.
- *Ask follow up questions*
 - "Can you tell us more about...?"
 - "What has ____ looked like for you?" or "How was ____ for you?"
 - "What else / how else has ____?"