

Preparation for 50 Days of Transformation
Your Life Support System
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I. Introduction

Jesus: *"Wherever two or three gather together in my name, I will be right there with them."*
Matthew 18:20 (LB)

Paul: *"I'm writing these instructions... so you'll know how to live in the family of God. That family is the church...."* | Timothy 3:15 (NCV)

II. What Does a Small Group Do? (Acts 2:42-47)

A. We study God's Word together

1. *"They committed themselves to learning the teachings of the apostles...."*
(TMSG)

B. We practice learning how to love

1. *"They joined with other believers in fellowship...."* (NLT)
2. *"They were like family to each other...."* (CEV)
3. *"They committed themselves to life together...."* (TMSG)

C. We eat together

1. *"They shared in fellowship meals...."* (TEV)
2. *"They ate meals together in their homes, eating with great joy and generosity...."*

D. We pray for each other

1. *"They spent time praying together...."* (NCV)

E. We encourage each other

1. *"They shared everything with each other... and helped each other when anyone in the group had a need...."*
2. *"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other."* | Peter 4:10 (LB)

III. How Can I Get the Most From My Group?

A. Make my group a priority

1. *"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together. Instead, let us encourage one another."* Hebrews 10:25 (TEV)

- B. Share my thoughts with humility
1. *“Don’t try to act important but enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all!”* Romans 12:16 (NLT)
 2. *“Never let selfishness or pride be your guide. Instead, be humble and give more honor to others than to yourselves. Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others.”* Philippians 2:3-4 (NCV)
- C. Respect others' ideas with courtesy
1. *“Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don’t see things the way you do. And don’t jump all over them every time they do or say something you don’t agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.”*
Romans 14:1 (TMSG)
 2. *“We must bear the burden of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others....”* Romans 15:2 (LB)
- D. Share my faults with honesty
1. *“If we live in the light, as God is in the light, we can share fellowship with each other.... (But) if we claim we have no sin, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”*
I John 1:7-8 (NCV)
 2. *“Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed.”* James 5:16 (LB)
- E. Share others' problems with sympathy
1. *“Help carry each other’s burdens. In this way you will follow Christ’s teachings.”*
Galatians 6:2 (GW)
 2. *“As holy people whom God has chosen and loved, be sympathetic, kind, humble, gentle, and patient.”* Colossians 3:12 (GW)
 3. *“If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it.”*
I Corinthians 12:26a (TEV)
- F. Encourage each other with accountability
1. *“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”*
Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)
 2. *“I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.”* Romans 1:12 (NCV)

IV. Conclusion