

# *Setting the Culture:* group values & expectations

We know that no one commits to or shows up to a small group to stay as they are. Everyone comes seeking something - new or deeper friendships, deeper understanding, healing or transformation, answered prayers or breakthroughs. Cultivating an environment where women feel welcomed and at ease is essential. Take time to establish and share group values and expectations at your first gathering and reiterate them as needed. Use a warm-up question at the start of each gathering to spark conversation and grow connections among the group.

Group values help keep your small group gatherings focused and bring agreement among the group about why you are gathering. Leaders should pray about the specific values your group will follow. Here are three values recommended by Be Together Co.

- **SPIRITUAL GROWTH:** Grow in our relationship with Jesus, become more like Him by allowing the Holy Spirit to move.
- **RELATIONAL/COMMUNITY GROWTH:** Establish strong and honoring friendships that are supportive, loyal and encouraging.
- **PERSONAL GROWTH:** Open minds and open hearts to the Holy Spirit to work in us.



Group expectations are guardrails for how your group will operate to create a culture of honor towards God and one another. Here are five Group Expectations recommended by Be Together Co.

- **PRIORITIZE** honor, compassion, and authenticity in all we do and say.
- **CONFIDENTIALITY** is a cornerstone. What's discussed here, stays here.
- **CULTIVATE** healthy & lasting friendships.
- **AIM FOR JESUS:** We can't fix people, but Jesus can and does heal! Encourage one another, seek to understand, show compassion, and avoid giving advice. Our discussion should always point each other to God and hearing God's voice and will for our lives.
- **PURSUE GOD DAILY:** Stay up on your homework, journaling and set consistent appointments with God to hear from Him. Each woman comes with hopes and expectations for how God will move through this group. Don't limit that growth to our small group meeting time.