

SETTING GROUP EXPECTATIONS

The directions below have been taken from Ruth Haley Barton's Book, Sacred Rhythms. They provide a great framework for setting the posture of how the group makes space for each other and what the expectations are. In the space provided, write down any additional expectations/values/norms your group would like to highlight, add, or prioritize.

- "Guide the group in making the following basic commitments as they journey together (if needed, encourage them to add any other values or commitments that will increase their sense of willingness to commit themselves to the group):
- We will be faithful engage with the material.
- We will support and pray for one another as we each explore what wholeheartedness looks like in our lives and respond faithfully to God's invitations along the way.
- We will respect each other's personal relationship with God understanding that each person's relationship with God takes place at God's initiative and within his leading and control.
- We will create and maintain a safe environment for questions and wondering. This means we will listen rather than fix and ask questions rather than give answers.
- We will seek to increase our self-awareness and be appropriately self-disclosing respecting our own boundaries and those of others.
- We will pay particular attention to the times and ways in which God is moving in each person's life and seek to affirm evidence of each person's growth and transformation.
- We will honor confidentiality*. What is shared in the group stays in the group!

Remember that the focus is on transformation, not information. Closing your time with prayer that celebrates what God is doing in each person's life and affirms each person's spiritual desire and intent for the week to come is an important way of "gathering up" all that has been shared and entrusting it to God."

**Leaders concerned with harm to self or others (or by others) will need to report this to a Pastor.*

IN OUR GROUP WE WILL....

Together, discuss and then write down those values/norms/expectations you are agreeing to as a group for this series. They can be from the list on the left as well as things your group decides on and AGREES on together. (Ex. being on time... praying for each other... allowing for silence... etc.)

