

WELCOMING SOMEONE NEW

BEFORE. DURING. AFTER.

Walking into a group of people who already know one another can be uncomfortable. A little preparation can remove much of that uncertainty before a new person ever arrives.

BEFORE THEY COME

- Make personal contact. Call or text them yourself.
- Confirm when and where you meet, anything they need to know, and who they can contact if they have trouble finding you.
- Tell them what the evening normally looks like: *"We catch up, have a conversation around Scripture, and finish by praying together."*

WHEN THEY ARRIVE

- Be ready for them. Welcome them by name.
- Introduce them naturally to two or three people.
- Give them a natural place to sit. Do not make them the center of attention.

DURING GROUP

- Explain anything they would not naturally know.
- Invite them into the conversation without forcing them to participate.
- Help the rest of the group include them. Do not let inside jokes or long stories make them feel like an outsider.

AFTER GROUP

- Follow up personally: *"Really glad you came tonight. I enjoyed getting to know you and hope you'll join us again."*
- Mention something specific you learned about them. That tells them you were listening.
- If your group is not the right fit, help connect them with the Small Groups team instead of simply letting them disappear.

People may not remember every question you discussed. They will remember whether anyone seemed glad they came.

LEADER LENS

Discipleship Wheel



ASK YOURSELF

- What could make tonight feel confusing to a guest?
- Who can I introduce them to?
- How will I follow up tomorrow?