

SESSION ONE BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR FORMATION GROUPS: LOVERS





O1 Biblical Foundations for Formation Groups

What do you expect will happen in this training?

What would you *like* to happen in this training?

Your Questions

What will you contribute to move this training closer to the way you'd like it to be?

How will you sabotage your contribution?



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God is up to something in you

You hinder, frustrate and sabotage God's work in you

Four Assumptions

You will both agree and disagree with me

You will both like and dislike this time on retreat



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Biblical Foundations for Formation Groups

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Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.



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Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

1 Corinthians 12:14

For the body is not one member, but many.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.



Building stronger groups through listening, valuing, and sacrifice

L-Listen

We have two ears and one mouth for a reason. Listen carefully and intentionally before speaking.

Reflection:

- · When was the last time you felt truly heard?
- · Who do you find it hardest to listen to? Why?

Fill-in:

One way I can practice better listening this week is:



O - Observe

Use your two eyes to notice body language, emotions, and unspoken signals.

Reflection:

- What are some non-verbal signs that someone in your group might be struggling?
- · How do you usually respond when you notice them?

Fill-in:

One thing I will look out for in others is:



V - Value

Everyone is fighting battles we may not know about. Each person is made in the image of God and has a story that shapes their perspective.

Reflection:

- How do I show people that I value them, even when I disagree with them?
- · Who in my group do I need to affirm more often?

Fill-in:

One way I can show someone they matter is:



E - Engage & Encourage

Thank people for sharing. Reflect back what you've heard. Give feedback on the issue, not the person.

Reflection:

- When was the last time encouragement made a difference to me?
- How can I use questions to show genuine engagement?

Fill-in:

This week, I will encourage ______by



R - Respond

Use kind, thoughtful words. Pray about your response and reflect on how you come across to others.

Reflection:

- How do I usually respond when I feel challenged?
 What might change if I prayed before responding?

Fill-in:

I will choose my words carefully when:



S - Sacrifice

Greatness in a group means setting aside pride and barriers. True connection requires vulnerability, openness, and care for one another.

Reflection:

- · What "barrier" do I find hardest to lower in group settings?
- · When has someone else's vulnerability encouraged me?

Fill-in:

This week, I will step out of my comfort zone by: