

the **STRATEGY** of

*Jesus*  
**FRIENDSHIP GROUPS**

# ***How to lead a*** **FRIENDSHIP GROUP**



*And daily in the temple, and in every house,  
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*  
*Acts 5:42*

**DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY** *of the faith in Christ Jesus*



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# Presentation



*"In the temple and in every house"*

**The sound of a spiritual  
revolution  
that is starting!**

***Dear pastors and Friendship Group  
leaders, Praise the Lord!***

Following Presiding Bishop and General Board's instructions, we are hereby providing a simple manual on how to lead a Friendship Group's reunion.

Our special thanks to Pastor Joe Aguilar, who adapted the text in this booklet for the Jesus Strategy program.

We praise God because more than five hundred pastors and more than six thousand leaders in 21 districts have attended the initial seminar in places where we have taught.

In four regions of our Assembly in Mexico, almost two hundred pastors and more than one thousand leaders have already taken the course.

The exciting sound of "spiritual war" is being heard in all districts of the United States and countries where our Apostolic Assembly is initiating Jesus Strategy. Getting out of the four walls of our churches and going to our neighborhoods is a historic step we have taken under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Our prayer is that God grants every apostolic congregation that implements Jesus Strategy, an abundant harvest of disciples for the glory of our Heavenly Father.

**Bishop Ismael Martín del Campo,  
Secretary of Christian Education**



# **How to Lead a** *Friendship* *Group's Reunion*

***"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."***

***Galatians 5:13-14***



*The success of a Friendship Group's reunion depends mostly on following certain order. You will find two options below:*

- a)** Start by having appetizers (soda, cookies, etc).
- b)** Have appetizers or light refreshments at the end of the reunion (please avoid heavy or complicated dinner. Food must not be the main focus of the reunion).

## Greeting (4 minutes)



The leader, the Timothy and the host greet everyone at the door with a warm welcome. Then the visitors are taken to the place where they will have some appetizers.

### Option 1, having sodas and cookies first.

## Prayer for the appetizers (1 minute)

When everyone meets at the place of the refreshment, the leader or another designated person prays for the appetizers.

## Refreshment (10-15 minutes)

El Refreshment time is used to talk with the visitors that evening.

During this time, we take the opportunity to ask about their interests. At the same time, we are making time for those running late.



## **Transition (2 minutes)**

When the leader of the Friendship Group thinks time is convenient, he/she will call everyone to come from the dinning room (or the place where the refreshment took place) to the living room or to the place where they will have the reunion.

## **If you use a DVD player**

Check that the DVD player is properly installed and that the TV is visible to everyone. Insert the DVD and follow the sequence.

## **Prayer: Start the Reunion (1 minute)**



Prayer at the beginning of the reunion shows the change of environment: from physical to spiritual.

This prayer might be directed by the leader, by the Timothy or any other person.

## **Declaration of Purpose (2 minutes)**

It is important to declare the main purposes of the reunion again and again at every meeting because there's tendency to divert from the

purpose when not reminded. The three main purposes are:

***1. Grow in a Relationship with God***

***2. Grow in a Relationship with Others***

***3. Grow in Number and Multiply the Group***

**Instructions to Develop the Lesson (2 minutes)**

It is also necessary to remember the instructions every week in order to fulfill the purposes of the group in the right direction.

Part of such instructions is:



- 1.** Everyone shares their opinion openly.
- 2.** Everyone helps babysitting.
- 3.** We will share our concerns and problems.
- 4.** It is very important to keep all confessions in strict confidence.
- 5.** We will resist the temptation to talk about others and about other religions.
- 6.** It is essential to attend all reunions faithfully.



## **Introduction (3 minutes)**

Every person must introduce themselves by saying their first name, starting with the leader, then the person next to him/her.

## **Ice-breaker (5 minutes)**

The ice breaking question is designed for everyone in the group to answer it, saved and not saved. The person reading the question should be the first one to answer. The leader may then explain how the question is connected to the lesson.

## **Worship and Testimonies (15 minutes)**



**1.** The leader assigns someone to lead this part of the reunion a week in advance. The songs will support the lesson. Let there be an environment of worship.

**2.** If you use a CD player, make sure you pass the hymn book "Our Song" to everyone, so that even our

visitors can participate.

Play the songs according to the numbers.

**3.** If you use a DVD player, follow the hymns and testimonies provided for that lesson.

## Edification (20-30 minutes)



1. Start this time by having preferably our friends do the biblical reading; be careful not to embarrass those who do not want to read.
2. The leader or a designated person can read or present the lesson by memory. Give plenty of time to answer those questions at the end of the lesson and answer them in the same order they appear.
3. Questions are designed to promote dialogue. This is not the time to teach anymore. The leader should defeat temptation to answer questions. Others in the group should answer them.

**At the end, you must apply the lessons with questions like:**

1. What will you do regarding this?
2. Is God working on you about something very specific through this lesson?

## Vision (10 minutes)

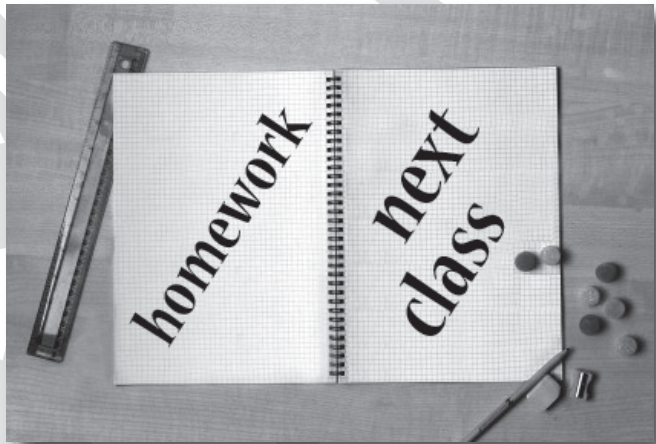
This moment is very important. The reunion becomes a lifestyle that the members of the group will live during the rest of the week. It's all about the goals of bringing friends to the feet of Jesus.

**1. ¿Who will teach a Bible study?**

**2. Who do you want to seat on this chair next reunion?** (Put an empty chair in the middle of the group).

**3. What can we do as a group to promote the three purposes of the group?**

Then the leader assigns tasks for next reunion, such as:



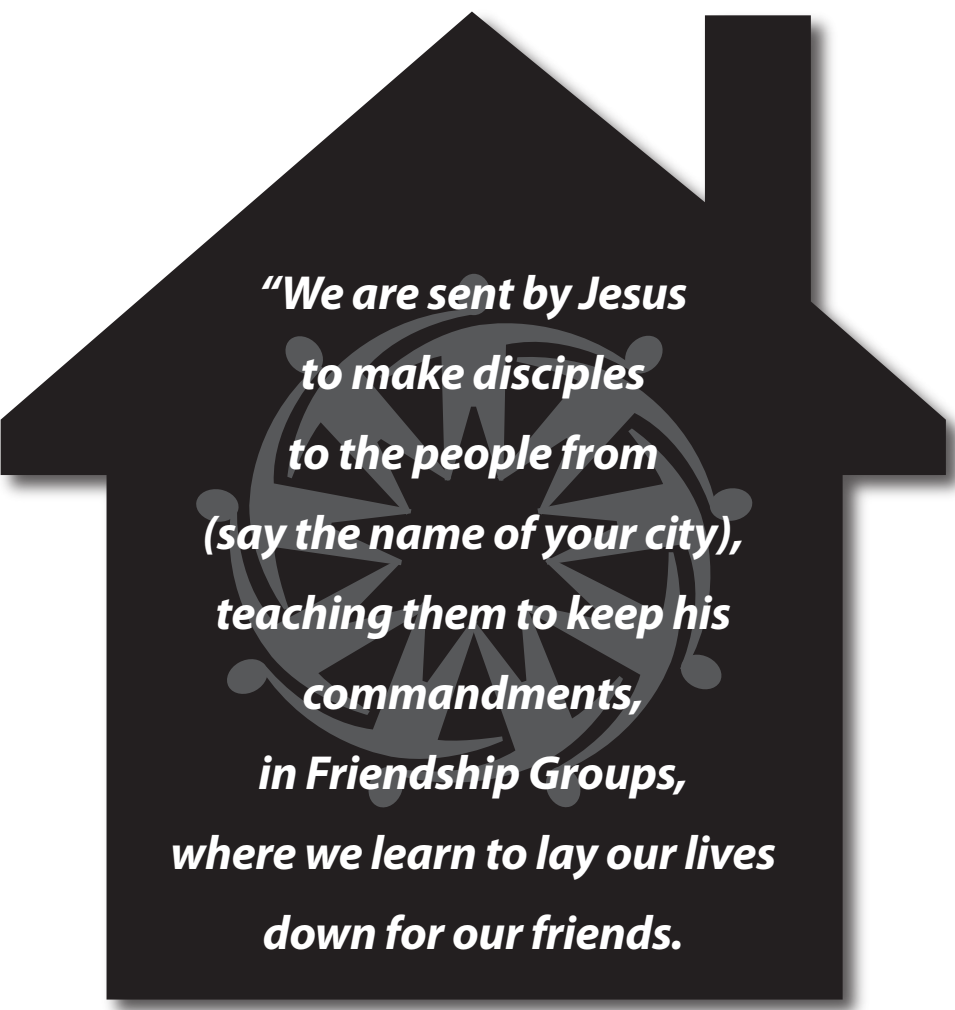
- 1. Who will bring appetizers**
- 2. Who will ask the ice breaking question**
- 3. Who will lead worship**
- 4. Who will present the lesson of edification**

At this time, the leader promotes assistance to next reunion and encourages those present to attend Sunday celebration at the church.

## **Motto**

*Remember the group that the goal is  
that all memoricen the motto*

***The whole group repeats the motto of  
the Friendship Group:***



***“We are sent by Jesus  
to make disciples  
to the people from  
(say the name of your city),  
teaching them to keep his  
commandments,  
in Friendship Groups,  
where we learn to lay our lives  
down for our friends.***

## Final Prayer (5-10 minutes)

Reunion ends praying for all needs and goals the group proposed.

## Option two, have appetizers at the end.

## Refreshment (10-15 minutes)

1. Refreshment time is used to talk with the visitors that night. Make the most of this time to strengthen friendship ties.



2. Try not to extend this moment to avoid long hours. Let us not make hosts uncomfortable by staying late at night.

3. Again, avoid heavy dinners or difficult-to-make meals. Meals should not be the center of attention at the reunion.

- ✓ As you can see, the only difference is to set the refreshment time at the end instead of the beginning.

