



WHAT IS A HOPE GROUP?



**CITY BIBLE
FORUM**



WHAT IS A HOPE GROUP?



A way of helping people meet Jesus

Christian Workplace Community Groups are based around two types of meetings within an organisation:

- Evangelistic prayer & workplace mission training - this is a closed, by invitation only time for Christians. These follow the material found at URL
- A public gathering where people can meet Jesus - this is an open group, perhaps even recognised by the organisation, focused on unbelievers meet Jesus. Hope groups are a good example of how this can work.



Key Concept

A Hope Group is a regular gathering of 3-7 people following a simple, easily replicable pattern of Looking Back, Looking Up, and Looking Forwards to practice thankfulness, share challenges, and encouragement from the Bible.



How does a Hope group work?

- Hope groups meet for about 30-45 minutes before work, at lunchtime, after work, or at another convenient time.
- There are three components, each of equal time:
 - Look Back
 - Look Up
 - Look Forward



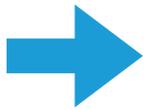
How does a Hope group work?



- **Look Back** practices thankfulness. Hope group members are encouraged to respond to questions from their experience since last meeting, an offering for prayer, and reflection on the challenge from last time. So, members are invited to share:
 - **Thankfulness and sharing**
 - What's something that was challenging since last time?
 - What are you thankful for since last time?
 - **Offer to pray**
 - Can we help with or pray about anything shared?
(this shouldn't be forced - but people usually appreciate an offer for prayer)
 - **Reflect on challenge**
 - How did you go with your plan to share what you learnt or put into practice since last time?



- **Look Up** is a time to be encouraged by the ancient wisdom of the Bible.
 - **Read**, re-read, and retell the passage for this meeting - example passages URL
 - **Reflect**
 - What does this say about God/Jesus?
 - What does this say about us?



- **Look Forward**
 - What would it look like to follow what is taught here?
 - Who will I share this with?
 - Simple prayer:
 - Hey God, thank you we've been able to see... help us to... AMEN



Two keys to success

Body

Hope Groups work because of two key factors:

- Non-Christians are present
- Groups are 3-7 people in size

Without these factors, Hope Groups eventually fizzle out.

No unbelievers coming? City Bible Forum has found that without unbelievers, Hope Groups tend to become regular Bible studies, and people usually get that through church - so they don't last long at work. So if you haven't had unbelievers come for a while (say a few months), maybe concentrate on praying and inviting until someone comes.



Two keys to success (cont)

What if there's 8 or more people in our Hope Group? When Hope Groups get too big, people stop sharing and we tend to stay shallow. But the good news is, with 8 people, you've got enough people to multiply! In fact, this is how Hope Groups are designed to grow. The format is so easy to remember that anyone can facilitate a Hope Group after experiencing one only a few times.

Imagine having a Hope Group on every floor, or a Hope Group on every day of the week!



Prayer

Pray for one or two colleagues who you could invite to be a part of a Hope Group.

Remember

COFFEE



DINNER



GOSPEL

