

Connect Group Foundational Principles

This document contains foundational principles to help connect groups achieve their goals and provide a safe environment for their members. Every group member should be provided with a copy of this document and have the opportunity to discuss it with their connect group leader as required.

1. **Confidentiality.** I agree that what is spoken in the group stays in the group. Confidentiality is essential and a sacred trust. I will honor that trust.
2. **On Being Personal.** I agree to be personal, not abstract when sharing needs, attitudes, feelings and issues. Use I statements "I think", "I feel". It is not the forum for intellectual debate.
3. **Feelings Matter.** I agree that each person may honestly and openly process feelings (be emotionally honest). I therefore agree not to reflect condemnation to others for those feelings, even though they may be different to mine. (promote grace)
4. **Giving and Receiving Feedback.** I agree to give and receive feedback. Participation is an important part of my growth, and support and encouragement for others. (Grant Good Intentions)
5. **Taking Personal Responsibility for Growth.** I agree to accept personal responsibility for my attitudes and actions in pursuit of growth and change.
6. **No Touch without Permission.** I agree that I will not cross physical boundaries, however kindly intended, without asking or receiving permission.

SOME EXPECTATIONS

1. Safe place to share issues, struggles, emotional honesty
2. Receive guidance/mentoring
3. Open communication
4. Prayer support
5. Practical support/assistance
6. Know who I am in Christ
7. Learn to enjoy my relationship with God
8. Share experiences, support, encourage
9. Get a return on my investment (ROI) for my time in the connect group
10. Relationship with other people