

Accountability/CHAT Groups

Below is a suggested format for training on accountability and CHAT groups. Be sure to print and hand out the CHAT group questions, since they will be used in the practice time. Conclude the time together with everyone praying for God to reveal who they should invite to be their accountability partners.

Looking Back [30 minutes]

Spend the usual time checking up and following up on commitments from the previous week. Discuss the vision for the group.

Looking Up [10 minutes]

Read Hebrews 10:24-25:

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Give a brief introduction to accountability/CHAT groups:

It is important that we do what we can to strengthen each other and encourage each other to grow. Through deliberate accountability, we can expose temptations and sins early before they have a chance to take root and grow. Bringing temptations and sin into the light also helps to set us free from it. More than 90% of the people in disciple-making movements are part of an accountability group.

Accountability Groups are made up of two or three people of the same gender - men with men, women with women - who meet once a week to discuss a set of questions that help reveal areas where things are going right and other areas that need correction. They can even meet by phone if they're unable to meet face-to-face. Everyone in the group needs to understand that what is shared is confidential.

Here are the main elements of the accountability groups. Note that these are discussed in more detail on the student handout under the “FORMAT OF A CHAT GROUP” section:

- **C**heck your progress. Discuss the accountability questions with your partner during the weekly meeting.
- **H**ear the word. Everyone is encouraged to read 25-30 chapters of the Bible through the week. For example, read Acts once or Ephesians 5 times. You may want to start with less reading at first and build up to 25-30 chapters as time goes on. During your CHAT meeting, discuss what the Lord has impressed on you from your weekly Scripture reading.
- **A**ct on it. Discuss how you have lived out and applied what the Lord has impressed on you in your scripture reading, and how you have passed this on to others. If you are using the SOAPS journaling tool, then sharing the SOAPS you did through the week with each other is a great way to talk about this.
- **T**ell others. Discuss how you are praying for and reaching out to the lost, and spend time praying for these people. Share 1 or 2 names of people for whom you will be praying for salvation through the week. There are evangelistic prayers on the CHAT handout to guide you.

Practice [45 minutes]

Break into groups of two or three people of the same gender. Spend the next 45 minutes working together through the Accountability Questions (This is the list of 18 questions starting with “How have your insights from last week’s reading shaped the way you think and live?”) Since you haven’t done a group reading before this session, though, just skip over the questions about previous readings.

Looking forward [5-10 minutes]

Everyone pray for God to reveal who to invite to be their accountability partner.