Thank you for being a Bridge Group Leader! Here is a quick guide to help shape your first meeting as a Bridge Group or for some of you, your first meeting with new Bridge Group members.

**We hope your group is a place where everyone will experience the gospel, engage in community and be equipped as Bridge Builders. But first you have to get to know each other, so that’s what this first meeting is all about.**

Remember, for some people, this will be their first group experience. For others, they’ve been in small groups before and they’re either new to Forest Hill or jumping back into a group after some time away. Either way, all of you already have some things in common.

* You’ve taken a step towards Jesus and dynamic life in Him
* You’re interested in engaging community
* God is already at work in your life

Here’s a brief outline of for your first meeting together:

CONNECT

Our hope is that this week everyone will talk, maybe laugh a little and really get to know one another before diving into the Bridge Group Launch study for the next 1 to 3 weeks. **Your main job as the leader is to ask questions and help people get comfortable with these new friendships.**

We suggest you set the tone for the group by being open and being yourself. It’s also good to remind everyone to be respectful of others and accept them where they are. (Remember for some of them being in group and talking about spiritual things could be new and intimidating!) Make sure everyone knows the goal is to “connect with, not correct, one another. Christians haven’t always been known for their acceptance of others, but that’s exactly what Jesus was known for (Luke 5:27–32).” In Bridge Groups, we practice the one anothers of the Bible by learning from one another and helping each other grow spiritually.

LEARN

Once you set these quick guidelines, go through the three rounds of questions below, inviting each person to answer one or more questions from each round.

**Round 1 – Sharing the Basics About Yourself**

* What’s your name and where did you grow up?
* How long have you lived in this area?
* What do you like to do in your spare time?

**Round 2 – Church, Group Experience, and Expectations**

* How long have you been connected to Forest Hill?
* What have you ever been in a group like a Bridge Group before?
* What would make this a great group experience for you?

**Round 3 – A New Year**

* What is something you learned about yourself in 2020?
* If you had to pick a word or phrase for how you feel so far this year, what would it be?
* What would you like to accomplish in 2021 personally?

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