

# MADE TO THRIVE

*Created for More*

## TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

- **CONFIDENTIALITY IS IMPORTANT.** Confidentiality is the key to building trust in relationships. Here are a few mottos to remember to be confidential: “What is said in small group, stays in small group.” **Nothing, nobody, never...** *“Share nothing, to nobody, never”* outside of the group.

## LISTENING FOR GOD’S VOICE

### ICEBREAKER

If GPS suddenly disappeared from your phone for a week, how would you get around?  
*(Examples: rely on memory, ask for directions, use a map, etc.)*

### INTRODUCTION

Everyone eventually reaches a crossroads in life. Questions like: What should I do next? Is this the right job? Should I stay or go? Where is my life heading? Most people try three things: instinct, advice, or trial & error. But Jesus offers a better way: learning to recognize and follow His voice. Learning to hear God doesn’t remove every challenge, but it brings clarity and direction in the middle of uncertainty.

### READ I

*... your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way; walk in it."*

*— Isaiah 30:21 (NIV)*

When shepherds lead their sheep, they walk in front of them, calling them forward. Because the sheep recognize the shepherd’s voice, they follow. In the context of Isaiah’s verse, God is calling His people back from wandering and directing them toward the right path. The analogy of a voice “behind you” points to God correcting and guiding His people

when they begin to drift. Many people think they must have their entire life figured out before moving forward. But Scripture shows that as we attune ourselves to God's voice, He often guides us as we take steps, redirecting us when needed.

**Have you ever changed direction after reflecting, praying, or receiving wise advice?**

*(Examples: considering leaving a relationship but strongly feeling God wanted you to stay; taking a job or opportunity even though it was challenging; etc.)*

**READ |**

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. — Proverbs 3:5–6 (NIV)*

The phrase “make your paths straight” doesn't mean an easy life, but to “remove obstacles from the road ahead.” Think of a road being cleared of rocks so travelers could move forward. When we rely only on our own understanding, we tend to see only a few steps ahead. Since God sees the entire road, He is the best Guide. Instead of rushing decisions, pause and ask: “God, what might You be showing me here?” Sometimes He doesn't answer right away, but as we continue to seek Him, He will make His will clear to us.

**Before you have a big decision to make, how can you slow down and listen for God's voice?** *(Examples: prayer or journaling, reading Scripture, consulting a trusted friend, etc.)*

**READ |**

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. — John 10:27 (NIV)*

Sheep learn the shepherd's voice through **daily proximity (closeness)**. In biblical times, sheep sometimes mixed with other herds at watering wells. When it was time to leave, each shepherd simply called out, and only his sheep responded. We learn to recognize God's voice in the same way, through **consistent small habits**, not just dramatic moments. Remember, God's voice is not always audible. He communicates primarily through Scripture, but also through any means He feels is appropriate to reach us. Staying close to God means being aware of what He's trying to communicate every day.

**Have there been moments in your life where you "heard God's voice," or had something unexplainable happen to you that could only have been God?** *(Examples: feeling an overwhelming peace during prayer, hearing exactly what you needed to in church, etc.)*

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- **Pause and Listen.** Ask: "God, what are You saying here?" Take time to not just ask, but listen. Sometimes God makes His will known quickly, or over time.

## CLOSE IN PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You that we don't have to figure life out alone. Thank you for Your promise to guide those who listen for Your voice. Help us to slow down, trust You, and build habits that bring us closer to You. Please give us wisdom for the decisions in front of us, and the courage to follow where You lead. In Jesus' name, amen.



## Make Time to be in God's WORD

Reading God's Word daily re-patterns the way you think & transforms your mind. Doing your daily devotions is an excellent way to record, process, & share what God is teaching you on a personal level. We do this using S.O.A.P.

- S - Scripture**
- O - Observation**
- A - Application**
- P - Prayer**

### Here's an example:

**S:** *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "* --  
*Matthew 4:4 (NIV)*

**O:** Jesus said that we can't live on food alone. Our life is sustained through His Word.

**A:** Just as food is important to me, God's Word is even more because it will sustain me and give me the strength to live out my life.

**P:** Jesus, thank You for reminding me that I need Your Word to give me the wisdom & strength to follow You. Help me to make time to spend with You daily. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

## SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

### **Day 1:**

***You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.***

**— Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)**

### **Day 2:**

***Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.***

**— Psalm 119:105 (NIV)**

### **Day 3:**

***Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.***

**— Colossians 3:15 (NIV)**

### **Day 4:**

***We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.***

**— 2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)**

### **Day 5:**

***Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.***

**— Galatians 5:25 (NIV)**