



# Guide to Organizing & Facilitating a BETWEEN Group

## **The space between us is sacred.**

BETWEEN Groups gather all over the world.

A BETWEEN Group happens when people gather to discuss the important stuff of life at the intersection of their own faith and human connection.

Anyone can organize and facilitate a BETWEEN Group. Including you. No training or permission is necessary.

## **We only require three things from you.**

1. Please honor our four community agreements.
2. Please prioritize the safety and inclusion of everyone involved.
3. Please tell us about it.

Everything else in this document is a recommendation. We trust you — and all your magnificence, your humility, your generosity, and all of God's love that flows through you — to create the best experience possible.



# Guide to Organizing & Facilitating a BETWEEN Group

## Logistics

### Who

BETWEEN intentionally invites folks from all backgrounds, all faith traditions, all life experiences, and all identities. As long as you can include and celebrate everyone else, you are welcome here.

### What

BETWEEN Groups are a sacred group conversation about the intersection of FAITH and HUMAN CONNECTION. Typically about an hour long. Casual. Radically welcoming.

### Where

Wherever makes sense for the group. A coffee shop. A church basement. A park. A video meeting. A library. A brewery. A village gathering space. A city square. Around a campfire. Wherever in the world you are, find a place that is conducive to a sacred conversation for your group.

### Why

Because our world is a lonely and disconnected place and it needs people like you — BETWEENERS — to create more moments of sacred human connection. The group gathering, itself, is a sacred connection — but the point of the gathering is to send all who attend out into the world to spread sacred connection around their daily lives.



# Guide to Organizing & Facilitating a **BETWEEN** Group

## **Recommended Outline**

- Welcome newcomers
- Opening words
- BETWEEN Content
- Partner Talk
- Group Discussion
- Closing words
- Next Time

## **OPENING WORDS**

The facilitator should prayerfully offer these words.

*“The space between us is sacred.*

*May we each silently welcome our own understanding of God into this space.*

*May we take responsibility for co-creating this experience.*

*May we understand each person as a magnificent reflection of the divine.*

*May we celebrate uncertainty.*

*May we feel safe enough to be vulnerable with each other.*

*Let us not put more pressure on this space than that.*

*We are here now. Together. With God.*

*This space is sacred because we are here.*

*Amen.”*



# Guide to Organizing & Facilitating a BETWEEN Group

## **BETWEEN CONTENT**

Our website, [YouTube channel](#), and social media channels are all great places to find content to frame the gathering around a topic or theme. Things like our weekly BETWEEN 5(ish)-Minute Sermons serve as powerful messages to spark ideas and dialogue. These 5(ish)-Minute Sermons are also accompanied by discussion questions for partner or group discussion time.

**\*Note:** There are always discussion questions associated with every 5(ish)-Minute Sermon. You can find those in the body of the weekly email that comes out every Sunday morning AND by expanding the notes below each video on YouTube.

## **PARTNER TALK**

Many people feel much more comfortable talking to one or two others than they do talking in front of a group. Get the group warmed up by encouraging conversation in pairs (or groups of three). Consider offering a specific prompt or discussion question for the partners. The intimacy and trust of a partner conversation is often the most memorable experience.

## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

Well-facilitated large group discussions result in a safe, inviting, and provocative experience for all involved. This is never easy but can be beautiful when people gather with the right intentions. Consider asking questions following this model.

- How does [message/theme] resonate with your life right now?
- How does [message/theme] connect to your faith/beliefs?
- How does [message/theme] relate to our larger society?
- How will you commit to taking action this week related to [message/theme]?

## **OUTREACH MOMENT**

Offering a couple of minutes for people to send a text, email, or direct message to people in their life is a simple way to widen the impact of the group. Be creative. Consider asking the group to send uplifting messages to people the discussion made them think of. Consider encouraging the group to send invitations to come to the next group gathering. Connect the group to the outside world.



# Guide to Organizing & Facilitating a **BETWEEN Group**

## **CLOSING WORDS**

The facilitator should prayerfully offer these words.

*“This has been a sacred gathering.*

*We have welcomed a divine presence to be among us and to work through us.*

*We have seen and been seen.*

*We have listened and been heard.*

*We have felt each other’s love, and we have loved.*

*Now our work begins.*

*May we create the sacred moments of human connection our world so urgently needs...  
the sacred moments of human connection our neighbors so deeply crave... the sacred  
moments of human connection we so passionately desire in our lives.*

*Amen.”*

## **NEXT TIME**

We recommend always planning for the next gathering.

## **TELL US ABOUT IT**

Find the button for our “TELL US ABOUT YOUR GROUP” form on our website.