

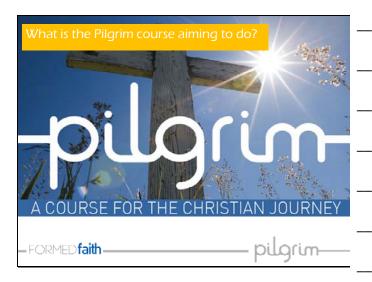
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'The Pilgrim Course is a journey to the heart of God and to a living, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.'

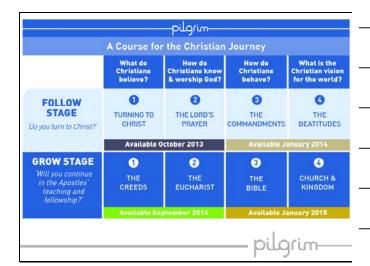
The Archbishops of Canterbury and York

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pilgrim-

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# **Small Group Process**



A practical model to help groups and facilitators improve the processes of their small group.

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## Forming/Overview



FORMING: The formation of the group is a continuous task. The group changes and people are looking for confidentiality, trust, shared vision, and engagement. (i.e. Gathering)

## Forming/Inviting Others

Some simple ideas for inviting people along:

- First night social event
- A flyer or brochure
- Web site
- Ask people in person (do they need transport, child care?)
- Monitor the intimate group/clique issue



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### Forming/Within a Group



Some simple ideas for helping the forming process:

- Do you ask about people's week?
- Have you thought about asking questions to stimulate more in-depth conversation without being confrontational?
- Is there time for open discussion?
- Is there time for group prayer?
- Supper/dinner?

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# Forming/Ground Rules

Key questions to ask people

- What do people want to get out of it?
- What do people expect of each other?
- What do people expect of the facilitator?
- Do this at the beginning of every new study (also use this after a study as a great way to review happened)

Should also be four basic 'rules'

- 1. Confidentiality
- 2. There is no such thing as a stupid question or comment
- 3. No one is forced to talk
- 4. No "put downs"

# Running/Overview



RUNNING: The running of the actual group is the process that concentrates on facilitating the actual small group session.

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## Running/Important Tips

### Preparing

- Pray and think about your group members
- Read the material prior to the meeting
- Read the readings prior to the meeting.
- Watch the video and listen to the audio reflection.
  - Need for adjustment/adaptation?
  - What will you use?



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### Running/Important Tips



#### The Physical Environment

- Can everyone see everyone? Does anyone sit outside the circle?
- Is it too hot or too cold?
- Is the lighting ok for everyone (e.g., those with a vision impairment)
- Can everyone hear everyone? (e.g., those with hearing impairment)
- Are there distractions? Is there comfortable seating? Privacy?
- Can you see a clock?

## Running/Ground Rules

Example Format (90 minutesTotal)

7.30PM Informal Catch-up and Fellowship 7.45PM Opening Prayer followed by Study

- Conversation
- Film
- Reflection on Scripture

8.45PM Group Prayer

9.00PM Close

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# Running/Important Tips

Is time being managed?

#### Listen

- Don't speak too much. Before you speak,ask yourself "Is this for me, or is this going to assist the process?"
- When people are talking, think as if you will need to summarise (not interpret) what people are saying.
- Use Silence



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### Running/Important Tips



### Using questions appropriately

- Use closed questions sparingly(unless for a very specific reason)
- Most of the Pilgrim questions are open questions
- Ask questions to clarify or draw people out
- Don't target individuals (unless they tried to speak and were cut off)

## Running/Important Tips

### Group prayer

- Ask what people would like prayer for (or use a strategy)?
- Get someone to open, you can finish off
- Use silence
- Keep it simple!
- Be affirming!

#### Resources

- Bibles (including study Bibles)
- Pilgrim and FormedFaith websites
- Commentaries
- Dictionaries
- Computer software (especially on iPad/tablet etc.) & websites
- Study guides

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### Caring/Overview



CARING: The pastoral care of group members is a shared responsibility and includes prayer.

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# Caring/Important Tips

All members cared for,

but not necessarily all members caring...

- Do you contact participants outside of session?
- Are you praying for them daily?
- Do you know what is happening in their lives?
- Do you expect to be ministered to?
- What are the key things you can do to care for your group members?



# Linking/Overview



LINKING: refers to the continuous process of managing transitions from week-to-week, between studies, and within studies.

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# Linking/Transitions



Email Phone Call Letter Visit



How was week? Emai Life examples? Phon Application Q's Lette Group Prayer Visit FUTURE EXPERIENCES

Email Phone Call Letter

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## Reviewing/Overview



REVIEWING: is the continuous intentional process of reflecting on the health of the group and members.

## Reviewing/Approaches

Group review - periodic

 Ask people for feedback (in your emails, beginning of sessions, etc)

Group review - example method

- At the end of a Pilgrim book, run a review session.
- This session should be an open forum.
- SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).
- Focus on both content and process.
- Are expectations being met?
- Monitor the intimate group/clique issue

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## Reviewing/Approaches

Facilitator review

- Reflect & pray on your management of the five processes
- Ask individuals
- Keep notes for yourself



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