

## Important parts of an Overcomers Outreach meeting

### **1. What materials should group participants bring to the meeting?**

Life Recovery Bibles and FREED books should be brought to the meetings by group members. We advocate the use of the Life Recovery Bible in an attempt to simplify the message. However, all versions of the scripture are utilized. If each participant had his/her own Bible and FREED book, they are more inclined to use them throughout the week, thus discovering God's answers for themselves, Every group should have several copies of O.O.'s "big book" – A Bridge To Recovery on hand.

### **2. What about confidentiality?**

Everything shared in the group MUST be kept SCRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. Gossip is avoided at all costs! We do not share any part of a group discussion with outside prayer lists, or reveal to others those who were in attendance and personal sharing.

### **3. What approach should we take with people who need help?**

We leave the "Preaching" to the preachers! We must not take it upon ourselves to add more guilt to an already guilt-ridden person by hurling Bible verses at him/her (which he/she may already know by heart!). Sharing our personal experience, strength, hope and examples of how God has worked in our own lives seems to work best. NO advice, NO judgement, NO preaching!

### **4. Importance of closing meeting ON TIME**

At the conclusion of the meetings, warm greetings and hugs are appropriate, respecting boundaries. Closing the meeting on time insures the fact people will feel comfortable about the lingering afterwards to share and identify. Obtaining phone numbers of friends in the group OF OUR OWN GENDER helps to carry us through the week.

### **5. What about those different denominational backgrounds – should we attempt to convert them to our own church?**

As stated in our "preamble", we avoid doctrinal issues, because many times they are divisive. We have enough in common that we need to spend out whole time concentrating upon our mutual needs, We stick to the basis of the Gospel and the love of our Lord Jesus, and leave doctrinal issues to theologians. MANY find Christ as their saviour as a result of attending Overcomers Outreach groups and discovering the Scriptures for themselves,

Other important simple ingredients:

- Safety
- Anonymity
- Unconditional love
- God's invited presence, most important of all.

