**Discussion Guidelines (Script)**

For Launch Week—First Growth Group Meeting

Talkers and Listeners

I’ve been doing these groups for several semesters now and I have noticed how people fall in a range when interacting in a group. On one end are people who are comfortable taking the initiative to start talking in the group; sharing their thoughts and opinions is fun and stimulating. Then there are those who are more reserved; maybe they are not familiar with the format or the topic being discussed, and they prefer to be a listener.

Our goal in the group is to allow everyone an opportunity to share and to hear from mostly everyone every week so that we can get to know one another.

So, my challenge to you is to think about where you are in that range …

If you are a talker, keep your sharing to one to two minutes and be aware of who is talking and who is listening so that you can allow those who are not as comfortable the chance to step in. If you are a listener, let us hear from you, step outside your comfort zone, take the opportunity – it is about growth!

Personal Issues

In a group this size, we will not be able to go into deep discussions about personal issues. But that does not mean we do not care about what is going on in your life…group is about getting to know each other and supporting each other.

If a subject hits home and brings up feelings or tough questions, that is a good thing- God is working. At the end of group, share them with your Growth Group Leader, core team member (introduce the Core) or a friend from the group. We can stay after group to discuss personal issues for as long as needed.

Confidentiality

I also want to say that what is said at group, should stay at group. We are respectful of people’s privacy.