

Letter to Small Group leaders

Dear Small Group Leaders,

1. You are awesome for being willing to lead a group!
The Calvin chaplains are praying for you.
2. We are so glad you are going to be facilitating your peers and colleagues on this journey.
3. If you are a leader in the dorm, get your people signed up at Sign-Up Genius at the **Dorm Groups** sign-up. Find your floor, add your people's info.
(www.calvin.edu/go/bible-study)
4. If you are a leader and not in the dorm, get your people signed up at Sign-Up Genius at the **Non-Dorm Group** sign-up. (www.calvin.edu/go/bible-study)

This is a 6-week study on apologetics, looking at 6 key questions about the Christian faith!

Some Recommendations as you lead:

- Plan for 40-60 minutes per meeting.
- Email your group members before your first meeting to remind them of the meeting day, time, and place.
- Name expectations for your group in the first meeting:
 - e.g.) -Starting time and ending time
 - Confidentiality: "Because we are looking at some sensitive topics and questions, where people may share their questions and wonderings about God and faith, there needs to be safety in the group. Do we commit to and agree that all that is said here will remain here?"
 - Expectation for attendance: if you will miss, please let me (leader) know, so I can plan on it.
- Print copies of the guide for your group or have them bring a device where they can read the pdf online (www.calvin.edu/go/bible-study)
- When your group first meets, especially if you don't know each other, do an ice-breaking opener:
 - e.g.) What was your high and low for the week?
 - One-word description of how you are feeling/how your day has been.
- The day before your group meets, take 30 minutes to read through the study guide for that week.
Each week begins with **Opening Questions** or **For Discussion**: that is to get your group going in thinking about the topic.
There is much content in each week, and if you don't get through all of it in your small group time, *that is ok*.
- In your prep time, prayerfully consider which sections will best serve your group, and which will be ok to leave out.

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When your small group meets, read together the sections within the guide that address those questions with your group.

I would recommend reading the content together (rather than asking folks to read it beforehand—it's a no homework study after all 😊).

- Conclude your time together with prayer.

I believe in you! We are excited you are going on this journey.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email Pastor Joella (pastorjoella@calvin.edu), Pastor Mary (pastormary@calvin.edu) or Pastor Matt (mwp4@calvin.edu)

Blessings!

Pastor Joella Ranaivoson

Associate Chaplain of upper class students