

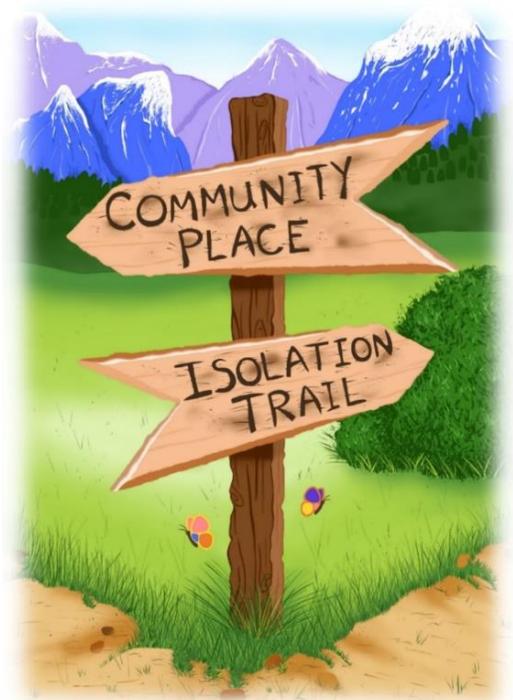
## TOPIC 7, EPISODE 1—EFFECTIVE TEACHING

### DYNAMICS OF A FRIENDSHIP GROUP

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- Connection Ministries encourages Friendship groups to find their own style, but include the five ministry elements of **(Worship, study of God’s Word, Prayer, Fellowship, and Ministry Together)**.
- Friendship Groups which take the form of Bible classes typically meet mid-week in the evenings, following the yearly school calendar. These ministries are run by members of the church. Activities include;
  - Worship Time
  - Bible Lesson
  - Prayer Time
  - Friendship Group Offering
  - Small Group Discussion
  - Crafts/Service Projects
  - Fellowship
- An evening would last about 90 minutes;

- Welcome/Worship	20 min
- Large Group Lesson/Prayer	25 min
- Small Groups/Prayer	25 min
- Fellowship/Snack	20 min
- **Worship Time**
  - Music is a vital part of worship in Friendship groups.
  - Live music is always preferred (*i.e. volunteers playing musical instruments such as guitar, piano*)



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## DYNAMICS OF A FRIENDSHIP GROUP CONTINUED

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- Music leaders can also use technology for songs, such as YouTube playlists where video slides can be projected with lyrics.
  - Music leaders should pick songs that are familiar to the adult friends, and not too complicated. Try to choose songs that fit into the Bible lesson for that evening.
- **Friendship Group Offering**
    - Allow the group to choose the beneficiary of their offering, whether it be a ministry in the church, the local community, overseas missionaries, or service project.
    - When taking a group offering, visually illustrate committing the offering to God, and give reports to the Friendship group how the offering was used.
    - You might set goals for specific amounts to meet a need. Each week there can be a visual report given, with a poster or a PowerPoint slide showing progress towards the goal.
    - When taking a group offering, visually illustrate committing the offering to God, and give reports to the Friendship group on the progress towards the goal and how the offering was used.
- **Bible Lesson**
    - Friendship groups are encouraged to have at least two volunteers with the role of Bible lesson leader.
    - The large group Bible lesson leader teaches a Bible lesson to the large group using visual aids, skits, costumes, volunteers playing Biblical characters, etc. They provide the main points of the Bible lesson and include real-life applications.
    - Curriculum may also be supplemented with visuals from sources like Free Bible Images; <http://www.freebibleimages.org/>.
    - The use of technology, such as projected images with PowerPoint/Keynote can also better enhance a lesson.
- **Small Group Discussion**
    - Small groups typically consist of 3-5 companions, and 3-5 adult friends with disabilities. Make sure to welcome family members and direct support staff into the small groups, as well.
    - Small group leaders review the large group Bible lesson through discussion questions. Leaders should apply real-life applications to help those with disabilities connect the lesson to their lives.

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## DYNAMICS OF A FRIENDSHIP GROUP CONTINUED

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- **Prayer Time**

- Some Friendship groups use prayer time during their small group discussions.
- Those groups which do not break into small discussion groups may prefer that prayer time to be done in conjunction to the large Bible lesson, or at the end of the evening.
- Some prayer options include gathering prayer requests and having a volunteer pray with the group over those requests.

- **Crafts/Service Projects**

- Developing craft/object lesson projects can provide a point of entry into the ministry.
- Be sure to have plenty of volunteers to help the adult friends with disabilities to complete their projects.
- Service projects are a great way to reinforce the large group Bible lesson, and further engage friends with disabilities, their families and direct support staff with the church congregation.
- Some examples of service projects include gift boxes for college students who are away from home, care packages for disaster victims, day-long service in the community, etc.

- **Fellowship**

- It is important for a Friendship group to leave time at the end of the night for fellowship.
- There can be a rotation of people willing to provide snacks among Friendship Group volunteers, as well as encouraging small groups in the church to contribute.
- Those volunteers gifted with hospitality can also arrange for cards and gifts to be presented to adult friends for birthdays and holidays, and cards mailed to those friends who have been absent from the group.
- It is also encouraged that Friendship groups find ways to socialize outside of the regularly scheduled meetings.