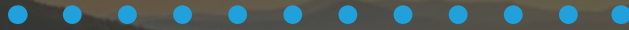


# GAME PLAN



MARRIED

# GETTING STARTED

## VISION: TO HELP COUPLES HAVE A BETTER MARRIAGE

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Have you ever been on a road trip with friends and realized no one has directions? Ever been on a team tasked with an important project but no one has any idea how to make it happen. We've all been there and it's not a good experience. The reality is, for a group of people to have a good experience getting where they want to go or accomplishing the project in front of them they need a plan. We believe the same is true for your married group. We want to help you and your group have a great experience together. So, we created a game plan just for you. We simply call it, The Married Group Game Plan.

This plan provides enough structure to help you navigate your group experience from GroupLink all the way to your last meeting. But don't worry, its not complicated

or rigid. The MG Game Plan consists of a suggestion for what to do with your group each week that you are together. As you'll notice, it's broken down into 4 Quarters (or semesters) that you go through while in a married group. In addition to the weekly guide you will find "Wins" that help you and your group connect relationally and grow spiritually. Each "win" is something we've discovered all great groups are sure to do together. Finally, there is the "Championship" that your group can only accomplish by going forward and expanding its influence. We want to help you win as a group leader. We want to help you and your group have a great experience together. We believe running the MG Game Plan will help you get where you want to go and have a great time getting there!

# MARRIED GROUPS GAME PLAN

**MEET YOUR NEW GROUP AT GROUPLINK**  
Use the app *GroupMe* to communicate with your group

## 1ST QUARTER (AUG-DEC)

- Week #1** Re:Group @ the Leader's Home
- Week #2-9** Starter Guide & Group Agreement
- Week #10** Social/Family
- Week #11** Rest
- Week #12** Learn
- Week #13** Share
- Week #14** Enrich (Temperament Assessment)
- Week #15** Serve (Be Rich)
- Week #16** Plan Your Group's Retreat/Celebrate

- WIN #1** Community Starter Guide  
Sign Group Agreement
- WIN #2** Get together outside of  
your normal group time
- WIN #3** Serve Together at a Be Rich Partner

## 2ND QUARTER (JAN-MAY)

- Week #1** Re:Group
- Week #2-6** Spiritual Growth Group Study
- Week #7** Group Retreat
- Week #8** Learn (Ending Well Session #1)
- Week #9** Share
- Week #10** Enrich (5 Love Languages)
- Week #11** Rest
- Week #12** Learn
- Week #13** Share
- Week #14** Enrich (Pray Together Experience)
- Week #15** Rest
- Week #16** Celebrate  
Confirm summer plans/adjust expectations

- WIN #4** Spiritual Growth Group Study
- WIN #5** Group Retreat
- WIN #6** Ending Well #1: Choose Your  
Group's Apprentice

## 3RD QUARTER (JUNE-JULY)

- Choose one of these options:**
1. Meet 2x/month
    - a. Learn or Enrich
    - b. Share
  2. Meet 1x/month
    - a. Share

- WIN #7** Host an Invite Event

## 4TH QUARTER (AUG-DEC)

- Week #1** Re:Group  
Confirm last meeting date
- Week #2** Learn
- Week #3** Share
- Week #4** Enrich
- Week #5** Rest
- Week #6** Learn
- Week #7** Share
- Week #8** Enrich
- Week #9** Rest
- Week #10** Learn
- Week #11** Share
- Week #12** Enrich
- Week #13** Rest
- Week #14** Serve (Be Rich)
- Week #15** Share
- Week #16** Communion
- Week #16** Ending Well Guide #2  
Last Meeting, Celebrate Change

- WIN #8** Rotate Leadership
- WIN #9** Land the Plane Well (Last 3 Weeks)

**BE A CHAMPION**  
Expand Your Group

# BREAKING IT DOWN

## PLAYS & WINS

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### PLAYS

Each quarter of the MG Game Plan contains weekly suggestions or plays you can run with your group. These are common activities that community groups engage in together. If you have been in a community group before you've likely done some of these plays but some of the plays will probably be new. Each play is referred to with a one-word name and below you will see the names of each play with a short explanation along with examples.

#### Play #1

### LEARN

*To grow in our understanding and love of God and each other*

- Sermon Questions
- Group/Bible Studies, Books, etc.

#### Play #2

### SHARE

*To continually hear what is happening in each other's life and pray for each other*

- Begin by enjoying some social time together
- Then spread out husbands together and wives together

*Example: Husbands on the back porch & wives in the living room*

- Go around the circle one by one and allow each person to answer these 4 questions:
  - How is your relationship with God? Your spouse? How are things at work?
  - What is one thing we can pray about for you?
    - Have each person pray for the person on their left
- Once everyone has shared and been prayed for, close in prayer to end the night.

#### Play #3

### ENRICH

*To improve the quality and enjoyment of your marriage*

- Marriage Dashboard, The Power of Words, State of Your Marriage
- Assessments: Love Languages, How We Love, Temperament Exercise
- Pray Together Experience, Financial Peace
- Double-date night, Game Night
  - You can find many of these at [acgroupleaders.com](http://acgroupleaders.com) or [groupleaders.org](http://groupleaders.org)

#### Play #4

### REST

*To intentionally not meet as a group*

- Take a break and allow group members to have this time for themselves and their family

#### Play #5

### RE:GROUP

*To reconnect at the beginning of each semester*

- Have Fun: Play a Game (Heads Up, Charades, Catch Phrase, etc.)
- Catch Up: Share your Highs/Lows since the last time you met
- Look Ahead: Go over your group's semester schedule & 'Wins'

Play #6

## **SOCIAL/FAMILY**

*To relationally connect and have fun just as couples or with everyone's kids present*

- Have a cookout/swim party at someone's house or neighborhood clubhouse
- Host a game night, go to a concert or attend a UGA event together

Play #7

## **SERVE**

*To go out together and "do good" to others*

- Check out our 'Be Rich' partners and volunteer at one of them
- Serve someone in your area or someone a group members knows

Play #8

## **INVITE**

*To intentionally open your group to people not connected to Athens Church*

- Invite friends and neighbors over for a cookout/swim party
- Host a Super Bowl party
- Go play Ultimate Frisbee together

Play #9

## **CELEBRATE**

*To end each semester by having fun and highlighting the ways you all have connected relationally and grown spiritually*

- Enjoy a fun dinner together (out or at someone's house)
- Use the following questions to help your group remember and enjoy God's work in their lives
  - What have you seen or heard in this group that has encouraged you to grow spiritually?
  - What are some ways that we have connected relationally?
  - What are some ways we have cared for each other?
  - What are some steps, relationally or spiritually, you have seen people take in this group?
- Also, be sure to acknowledge birthdays and anniversaries of group members that happened during the semester
- End the night with a prayer of thanks for what God has done and the steps group members have taken over the past 3-4 months.

## WINS

“What are the common things that help groups have a great experience?” This is a great question and one we often get asked. The good news is we have an answer. Specifically, we have 10 answers or “wins” that we have included as part of the Married Group Game Plan. Do these with your group to win as a group and as a group leader!

Win #1

### **START WELL** BY GOING THROUGH THE “COMMUNITY” STARTER GUIDE & SIGNING THE COMMUNITY GROUP AGREEMENT

Win #2

### **GET TOGETHER** OUTSIDE OF YOUR NORMAL GROUP MEETING TIME

- Go to dinner, grab coffee, watch a ball game together or have a game night, etc.

Win #3

### **SERVE TOGETHER** AT ONE OF OUR BE RICH PARTNERS

- Check out Berich.org to find one of our partners and set up a time to go and serve at that organization together. Maybe go to dinner afterwards.

Win #4

### **SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY** (3-5 SESSIONS)

- Something that equips and encourages your group to read the scriptures, pray and listen to the Holy Spirit (Private Disciplines)

Win #5

### **GROUP RETREAT**

- Weekend trip, an overnight trip or do a “stay-cation” by getting together for dinner on Friday night and then spend most of Saturday together

Win #6

### **CHOOSE YOUR GROUP’S APPRENTICE(S)**

- Use the “Ending Well Guide #1” to help your group select an apprentice

Win #7

### **HOST AN INVITE EVENT**

- Plan a fun gathering and invite friends, neighbors and co-workers to come
  - Cookout, Super Bow party, Game Night, etc.

Win #8

### **ROTATE LEADERSHIP**

- Let group members know its their turn to lead a group meeting and assign leadership responsibilities to your group members so they lead at least one group meeting

Win #9

### **LAND THE PLANE WELL** (LAST 3 “OFFICIAL” GROUP MEETINGS)

- Share Night
- [Communion](#)
- Celebrate Change: Ending Well Guide #2 (Last group meeting)

Be a Champion

### **EXPAND YOUR GROUP**

- Your one group is ready and willing to multiply and become two new groups!
- Leaders who win the championship will be invented to the very special “Champions Dinner” held once a year!



# GETTING THERE

## COMMUNICATION & GOALS

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### COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR GROUP

As married couples, we know how important communicating well is for us to have a healthy relationship and communication is just as important for us to have a great group experience. To help your group stay connected and informed we encourage you to use the following guide:

1. Use the app “GroupMe” to send weekly reminders
2. Use a Google doc to share your semester schedule
3. During each Re:Group session review the Married Group Game Plan

### PRAYING FOR YOUR GROUP

“Spiritual *leadership* is rooted and fueled by one’s relationship with God.” Another way of saying this is, “let your leadership flow out off your relationship with Jesus.” Jesus modeled this truth for us. He is pictured throughout the gospels consistently praying and in John chapter 17 Jesus prays earnestly for His “small group.” So please remember there is nothing more important you can do to lead and serve your group members than regularly praying for them.

- Pause for 10min. before your group meets to pray for them
- Practice praying for your group members by name 3x/week

### POSTURES OF A LEADER

1. Humble
2. Teachable
3. Authentic
4. Intentional

### GOALS FOR MARRIED GROUPS

When my group finishes the game plan, what are some signs that I’ve lead well and we’ve had a successful group experience?

1. Collectively – the group has cared for each other
2. Collectively – the group has had fun together
3. Individually – each person has grow in their relationship with Jesus
4. Individually – each person has experienced authentic friendships
5. Couples – each couple has a better marriage
6. Couples – each couple is planning to join another community group
7. Future Group Leaders: One other couple besides the group leader is planning to lead a future married group

### 3 TO THRIVE

- 1. Pray**
  - Regularly pray for your group members, 3x/week
- 2. Care**
  - Consistently communicate with your group (use communications guide above)
  - Reach out/help out when something happens to your group
- 3. Follow**
  - The Game Plan we give you & where God leads you