



ACCOUNTABILITY GROUPS

Accountability groups exist to help believers stay pure and faithful in their daily walk with Him and can help each other overcome temptations, sin, and other troubling issues. Accountability is about good relationships. It is about taking our commitment seriously and explaining our decisions and actions to others so that we can grow. We don't want glorified confession times, we want movement toward God.

BENEFITS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

- Helps members submit every part of their lives open before God with trusting individuals that will not judge, but are there for support and encouragement (Proverbs 27:17).
- A safeguard against temptations from sin, impure thoughts or making poor decisions.
- Offers a prayer team who will faithfully support you.
- Builds friendships between brothers or sisters in Christ.

Being part of an accountability group takes commitment. Commitment to invest into the lives of the other members, as well as commitment to meet and check in with one another. But ultimately, commitment to God and His purposes for your life!



HOW TO FACILITATE ACCOUNTABILITY

ESTABLISH HOW OFTEN YOU WANT TO REPORT TO ONE ANOTHER.

- **In most cases, daily accountability works best.**

Suggestion: Set your phone alarm as a reminder to text each other each evening at a decided upon time with a simple thumbs up or thumbs down on whether or not you met your commitment that day. With time, you can deepen this to make it more meaningful.

- **Weekly or monthly In person meetings (coffee, breakfast, dinner, etc.)**

- **Meet with each member of your group one-on-one**

Suggestion: Try to meet with one of the other members every two weeks.

ESTABLISH WHAT YOU WILL REPORT.

ESTABLISH THE METHOD THAT YOU WILL USE TO REPORT TO EACH OTHER (TEXT, EMAIL, PHONE).

START HOLDING EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE!

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Only God has the power to transform you and draw you to Himself. Your accountability group, while encouraging, is not meant to be a boss who keeps you on task. Ask the Lord for grace to do what you have committed to Him to do.
- It will feel awkward at first! Stay with it and remember this is about developing relationships in an effort to point one another toward Christ.
- Actively participate. Whether it's daily texts, weekly check-ins, or face to face meeting, make a commitment to participate fully.
- Put more in to the group than you take out.
- Be honest and respectful.
- If one of your partners doesn't report one day, be sure to connect with them to check in and make sure everything is ok. Gently refuse to accept excuses and hold your partner up to do what they have agreed to pursue, but take both grace and sin seriously.
- Rotate leaders each meeting.
- Keep your Bible close and make it the source of everything you say and do, It is our source for knowing God and understanding what it means to follow Him. When we remove the Bible from our accountability groups, we can easily drift in to the thoughts of man and drift away from God's perfect wisdom for our lives.

If a member is struggling with a sin or another important issue, take time to thank them for sharing this. Use yourself as a personal example (only if it applies). Ask God for wisdom and remember to ask the person how the group can help.

Sometimes accountability groups can carry the connotation of being places where we are required to share our deepest darkest sins and then uphold ourselves to high moral standards. This can result in fear becoming the driving factor and motivation for accountability.

Remember that perfect love drives out fear (1 John 4:18). Your group should always be operating out of the perfect love of Christ. We don't want to simply act morally, we want to become more like Jesus as He transforms our lives and bestows His righteousness on us.

Accountability should not be rooted in a sense of indebtedness and guilt. Instead, it is based out of your desire to love and obey Christ, and wanting to help others do the same.



ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

HERE ARE A LIST OF QUESTIONS TO HELP FACILITATE YOUR TIME TOGETHER:

- How did you spend significant time with God through His Word, prayer, devotions, worship or fasting this week?
- What is God showing you through your devotional life right now?
- What is blocking your growth in Christ right now?
- Where have you faithfully served the Lord this week?
- How have you struggled with sin this week?
- How are your relationships? (marriage, friendships, co-workers, etc.)
- In what ways have you seen God working in your life this week?
- What are the dreams God has placed in your heart? How can we help you reach them?
- Have you shared your faith with a non-believer this week?
- In what ways have you shown God's love to others this week?
- How are your finances?
- Have you been trustworthy? (lied, stolen, etc.)
- Have you been prideful? (gossiped, angry, etc.)
- How have you demonstrated a servant's heart this week?
- Are you struggling with disappointment this week?
- Have your thoughts been pure?
- What do you need to improve your relationship with God and others?
- Have you compromised your integrity in any way?
- Do you have any problems with other believers, ministries, or your local Church body?
- How are you working out of your own strength instead of the Lord's?

These are just the beginning of the types of questions you can ask of one another.

Remember that no one is exempt from temptation and problems. Take things slow - you do not need to answer all of these questions every day or week. The general purpose is encouragement, support, and fellowship. You want to be genuine in your relationships, not just run through a list of questions mechanically. Let the Holy Spirit guide you into the places He wants to minister to each of you.

