

Life-cycle of a Group

Joining - where we are now. We're beginning to spend regular time together with a common goal of abiding in Jesus, following him, encouraging one another as disciples. We're getting to know each other as we interact, react, and respond to each other and what we're learning. Our water lines might be kept fairly high in this stage and that's okay.

Trusting (Bonding) - as we get to know each other, work through and establish our group norms, see how we will care for one another, how we'll handle conflict, joy, grief, ...life, we will increasingly bond and trust one another. We'll likely drop our water lines more. True community is forming.

Working - We'll go deep, drop our water lines even more, and do the life-on-life work of equipping, holding each other accountable, repenting, and praying. And, this is where we'll be most vulnerable to conflict. This is where we'll have an opportunity to work through conflict and strengthen community.

Ending - I have a hard time with this phase and I rarely do it well. There's no prescribed way to end. Ending can look a thousand different ways. Maybe this means spinning off new groups or some leaving, some new people coming in, orwhat's your experience of groups ending well? Or not well?