

# group guide

**When things don't go the way we think they should**

more info: [haventtogether.com](http://haventtogether.com)

# 1. gather

Hi [name],  
I'm having a catch-up [on day]  
where I'm inviting a few people to  
[home, cafe, local park, zoom etc] to  
have a chat about [topic].

I thought to invite you. I'd be  
interested in hearing your views and  
would enjoy your company.

[Create a more personalised script  
for repeat invitations]

## 2. relax

Create a relaxed environment as people arrive. You might provide food or drink.

Ask how their day has been.

Find a comfortable space to sit. Let people know who is coming and introduce those who may not know each other.

# 3. Transition

**Explain the purpose of gathering as outlined in original invitation.**

*I wanted to create an opportunity to discuss something that I'm interested in so thanks for coming. I hope it will be enjoyable for everyone.*

*The topic for discussion is:*  
**When things don't go the way we think they should.**

*Is that something you've ever thought about?*

# 4. Discussion

Ask one or more of these questions if required to keep the discussion going, but aim to pick up on and ask about. Try to share as little as possible at this stage. Ask questions and then listen.

*What's something hard you've been through but you feel it was worth it now?*

*What are the most important things in life to you? Why?*

*Have you ever been troubled when God hasn't answered a prayer the way you thought he should?*

# 5. Testimony

At an appropriate moment, you may share a brief personal experience about **when you realised God had a bigger plan in mind.**

Be honest, avoid Christian-sounding language and admit any doubts you may have.

If it doesn't feel like the right time you can skip this step.

# 6. Bible

*I'd like to read you something. It's from Mark  
8:31-38*

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*"Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law.*

*He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things.*

*Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. "Get away from me, Satan!" he said. "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."*

*Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.*

*And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

# 7. Application

*What do you think the main message of this is?*

*What's something you feel challenged about?*

*What is a practical step you could take today?*

# 8. Prayer

*Is there anything you think we could pray about?*

*Thank you God that we could have this discussion today. I pray for [any requests]. Help us to know you more. Amen.*

# 9. End well

*Thanks, I enjoyed that.*

*Hope it was okay?*

*I was thinking of doing this again if  
you'd be interested?*