

Widows Ministry Session Two

How to Plan Regular Meetings

Remember: These meetings are an opportunity to connect widows with each other. They can relate to each other. Many times, they just want the opportunity and time to talk to each other.

PREPARING FOR THE MEETING

1. Use the information sheets to help decide a good time for your meetings
 - Remember to check church calendar & your authority
 - Possibly advertise in church bulletin, church website, flyers, and invitations if you would like.
2. Location – Flexibility: home, church, library, bank, etc..
3. Who is invited?
4. Decorating – optional – Widows want to feel special.

DURING THE MEETING

1. Having an icebreaker or quick game in the beginning.
2. IMPORTANT: You don't want this to become a pity party time. Keep it upbeat, pointing them to the hope and joy in Christ.
3. Have a short devotional.
4. The first few months of meetings you want to give a lot of time for the ladies to talk to each other. This provides 3 things:

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- a. An opportunity to share what is on their heart and mind; the challenges and the weird world they are walking through.
 - b. A time to build trust within their relationships. You may want to let everyone know, “This is a safe place where you can share your heart and we will not go tell people what is shared here.”
 - c. It is a chance to speak some of the 20,000 words they need to speak in a day. 😊
5. You can have a potluck or meet at a restaurant – just keep in mind many widows live below the poverty level or on limited incomes.
 6. A door prize – it is fun and widows miss gifts and flowers.
 7. Remind them of when the next meeting is
 8. Be sensitive and keep the meeting between 1 – 2 hours. Your goal is for them to WANT to come back.

AFTER THE MEETING

1. Thank you notes or a postcard inviting them to the next meeting.
2. Someone can call them to remind them of the next meeting a few days before.
3. Prepare a calendar with each of the widows’ birthdays on it.

Additional Meeting Ideas:

1. Potluck, Restaurant, take turns cooking, or NO FOOD
2. Plan short trips – museums, parks, college productions
3. Do a book study – find out if they are interested

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4. Goodie boxes for military overseas
5. Bring in people to teach life skills: computer, cell phone, drs
6. Cooking for one class
7. Get ideas from Senior Centers
8. 50's Night
9. Make your own sundae

Keep in mind that these small group times helps provide an opportunity for widows to connect, talk, and help one another. Talking and sharing is one of the main things that widows need. You are helping to provide this much needed avenue by getting them together.

Here are some books that are helpful in understanding what widows face. They may give you some ideas on things to talk about.

- "From One Widow to Another", by Miriam Neff
- "Grieving with Hope", by Samuel J. Hodges and Kathy Leonard
- "Through a Season of Grief", by Bill Dunn and Kathy Leonard
- "Widow to Widow", by Genevieve Davis Ginsburg

THANK YOU for your heart to step out and "care for the widow" through connecting them to one another. May the Lord guide, direct, and bless you as you touch widows' lives for eternity.