

Instructions for Leaders

CORNERSTONES *for Christian Committees*

The Purpose of *Cornerstones for Christian Committees*

- *Cornerstones* reminds the committee to focus on the central vision and mission of the organization.
- *Cornerstones* gives all participants an opportunity to participate in a safe and comfortable discussion.
- *Cornerstones* is designed to be concise, allowing leaders to balance between team-building and full agendas.
- *Cornerstones* brings meetings to a focused finish so that meetings end on a spiritual note.
- *Cornerstones* provides team-building opportunities for every time you meet.

Guidelines for Successful Use of *Cornerstones*

- Make a copy for each participant.
- A suggested meeting schedule would be OPENER, FOCUS, committee agenda, CLOSING.
- Remember to keep the focus on the participants. Leaders should speak only to add clarity and to keep the discussion moving.
- Always give each participant an opportunity to respond to the OPENER before allowing general discussion.
- Keep the discussion moving. You may have to wait for the first response. Pausing after the question is introduced helps people collect their thoughts. Periodically announce the time left and the number of people who haven't "gone yet" as a reminder to keep the discussion moving.
- If you have trouble staying within the time frame, divide the group into smaller groups. Groups of three work better than groups of two. Smaller groups work especially well for prayer closings.
- Establish an atmosphere of acceptance. Sharing thoughts about the Bible feels risky for some people. Remind participants that their opinion is important; there are no "the right answers." The FOCUS segments are designed to let the Scripture speak and allow the participants to respond as the Spirit moves them. This is not the time for correction or doctrinal instruction. The overall input of the group, the prayers, and the Spirit of Truth will balance and shape the thinking of the misinformed.
- Have fun.
- Don't skip the CLOSING.