

WHY HAVE AN NCF GROUP

When nurses meet together and invite God into discussions about nursing they experience Jesus' gift of Christian community. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matt. 18:20). Christ's presence encourages nurses to grow in love for God, God's Word, and people of every ethnicity and culture. God also awakens and renews a purpose for being in nursing – representing Jesus among colleagues, patients and families, and the nursing profession. NCF groups link nurses locally, as well as nationally and internationally, to communicate the good news of Jesus and Christ-centered nursing, to make a difference in the profession, and to bring honor to God.

HOW TO START AN NCF GROUP

- ❖ Pray, and ask others to pray for the development of a group. Groups may be formed in a nursing unit, facility, church or city.
- ❖ Identify several goals for the group based on guidance the Lord gives you.
- ❖ Contact several other nurses who might be interested in helping to start the group.
 - ◆ Invite them to a gathering at your home or workplace.
 - ◆ Share your vision and NCF resources with them.
 - ◆ Ask for their ideas and suggestions and discuss starting a group.
 - ◆ Choose a leader or co-leaders.
 - ◆ Contact the NCF office for names of nurses in your area.
- ❖ Choose a date, time and place for your first get-together. The time of day and frequency of meetings depend on the schedules of those who are interested. Monthly meetings provide continuity, though prayer partners/groups may meet more often. NCF groups meet in homes, hospitals/agencies, classrooms, cafeterias or chapels - any place nurses can come together.
- ❖ Plan the format for your time together.
- ❖ Choose materials for group meetings – see Resources for NCF Groups.
- ❖ Publicize meetings using flyers, email announcements, personal invitations...
- ❖ Notify the NCF office that a new group is starting.

SUGGESTIONS FOR TIMES TOGETHER

❖ Leader preparation

- ◆ Use the Bible study questions and leaders' notes to prepare for the discussion.
- ◆ Pray for God's guidance in your leadership and for group members.
- ◆ Prepare a meeting plan and simple refreshments; fancy programs and foods are not necessary.

❖ Group sharing

- ◆ Pray for a caring atmosphere and freedom to share.
- ◆ Invite members to share about nursing related issues and personal concerns (focus on experiences, joys, dilemmas, issues - not gossip).

❖ Discussion and prayer

- ◆ Introduce the Bible study, *Journal of Christian Nursing* article, or nursing topic discussion.
- ◆ Pace the group activity to ensure that the meeting ends on time.
- ◆ Allow time for praying together and sharing how God has answered requests. Some group members may be comfortable praying out loud, and others may prefer to pray silently. The leader may also pray on behalf of the group for specific topics that were discussed and other expressed concerns.

❖ Connecting with others

- ◆ Invite nurses to sign a list including name/address/email to receive notices of NCF conferences and other resources. Send the list to the NCF office (ncf@intervarsity.org).

- ◆ Encourage nurses to become NCF members and give them Membership brochures.
- ◆ Encourage attendance at NCF conferences, seminars and retreats. Those who have attended can share what they have learned.

❖ Follow-up

- ◆ Evaluate the group meetings - for time, location, content.
- ◆ Encourage others to volunteer to lead future group discussions.
- ◆ Ask group members to invite others to the gatherings, including those who are searching for God.
- ◆ Pray that God will nurture the group and extend its outreach.

Pray

- ◆ for each other
- ◆ for patients
- ◆ for co-workers and administrators
- ◆ for nursing and nursing leaders

Apply God's Word to Nursing

- ◆ Use the Bible as a basis for discussion on nursing issues, spiritual care and ethical concerns.
- ◆ Read God's Word for wisdom, guidance, encouragement and personal growth.
- ◆ Discuss Christian books and *Journal of Christian Nursing* articles.

Receive and Give Encouragement

- ◆ Share experiences, concerns and joys.
- ◆ Learn together how to integrate Christian faith into nursing practice.
- ◆ Develop leadership qualities and skills to influence nursing positively.

Reach out

- ◆ Demonstrate Christ's compassion and righteousness.
- ◆ Share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Mentor students and nurses.
- ◆ Seek ways to be involved in cross cultural and global mission.

Note: We believe that NCF groups do not take the place of involvement in a local church where nurses are nurtured in faith among others in the Body of Christ.

The NCF Publications brochure and IV Press book flyer contain many helpful resources, including:

- ◆ *Thinking Christianly about Nursing* and other Bible studies related to nursing
- ◆ *Spiritual Care: A Guide for Caregivers* (IV Press), *Called to Care* (IV Press)
- ◆ *Caring Across Cultures, Nursing in the Church: A Guidebook for Parish Nurses* (NCF Press)

Journal of Christian Nursing brings a Christian perspective to timely and important issues in nursing.

Request a packet on leading NCF Groups: You will find more resources on leading Bible discussions, small group development and ideas for group meetings.

Visit the NCF website often (www.ncf-jcn.org): New NCF resources, conferences and ideas for NCF groups are posted.

We want to hear from you, and provide encouragement, resources and prayer!



P.O. BOX 7895,
Madison, WI 53707-7895
(608) 274-4823 X 402
FAX: (608) 274-7882
EMAIL: ncf@intervarsity.org
www.ncf-jcn.org

How to start an NCF Nurses Group

