

## MEETING GUIDE – GRADUATION

*A Sample Timeline and Discussion Guide*

### Session Objectives

Community will continue beyond the group as the women graduate

Celebration of all God has done during your time together

Summary if combining your last session with Graduation Celebration

4 Hours Total {Suggestion: Begin at 5:00 pm, Eat at 7:00, Finish by 9:00}

2 hours: Just the Women—Session Content

1 hour: Dinner—Husbands Join (for married groups, if desired)

1 hour: Sharing—Women (with husbands for married groups, if desired)

5:00 FOLLOW THE SESSION TIMELINE

(Reduce the time appropriately or plan on starting earlier if you want to have a full three-hour session before dinner)

6:55 BREAK FOR DINNER (Husbands arrive for married groups, if desired)

7:00 DINNER (around tables if possible)

If your group is too large for one table, then dividing the group is fine. Split the numbers evenly so that couples can sit together at each table. If you can't all fit around one table, either both of you spend time at both tables, or you and your husband split and sit at different tables for the full time.

8:00 BREAK - move toward Group Sharing Time

8:10 GROUP SHARING TIME (husband's included for married groups, if desired)

You might open up this time by expressing how the year has blessed your life. Then give each woman, and husband (if he so desires), an opportunity to share what the year has meant. Hopefully, they've written down some thoughts before coming, as you instructed at the close of last month's meeting. You can incorporate either of the additional ideas given in the mentor preparation guide here

For single women groups, you could have a time of encouragement where you take the time to go around the group and share words of encouragement for each

woman. You would start and select one of the women and share how you've seen God work in her life this year. Then open it up to the other women to share what they appreciate about her. Once you have finished with her, you would then go to another woman and do the same thing. You'll find this to be a very meaningful time together!

## 8:50 CLOSE IN PRAYER FOR EACH GRADUATE AND HER FAMILY

Wrap up the evening in prayer. This would be a great opportunity, if you and your husband (for married groups) feel comfortable doing this, for you both to pray over each couple. You could do this sitting or going to each couple and laying hands on them and praying for them.

Optional: If you wanted to give them a gift to remember the year by, this would be a good time to do so. If you have a picture of your group, have prints made and frame it. This will be a great gift for you to have also!

## 9:00 DISMISS

## MENTORING SEASON'S END

Even though you might find the women asking for another year together, we have found having a conclusion to the year is a very healthy thing. We had much rather end the year with them asking for more, than fizzling out! The relationships with the women can be continued on a one-on-one basis.

If you find the women really not desiring to stop, you might encourage them to continue meeting on a quarterly or yearly basis. In the past, some have chosen to read a book together and memorize a verse for accountability and continued growth. Some have just gotten together for dinner, with or without families.

You can make these suggestions to them and let them know you will continue to be available to them (if that is your desire). You'll just put the responsibility of initiating getting together on them.

Our prayer is that this year has been an incredible experience for you, and one where God has used your life in ways unimaginable! Thank you for joining us on this journey of investing in younger women! May the blessings you have given come back to you multiplied!