

Tips and FAQs

Tips

(Adapted from Jonathan Dodson, Fight Clubs: Gospel-Centred Discipleship)

These are only intended to be guidelines that can be adapted to suit the particular needs of your Fight Club.

1. Talk (approx. 15 mins)

- Spend some time catching up on life.
- If we don't do this, we fight in the dark, isolated from what God is doing in the larger picture of our lives.
- Get to know each other's histories and backgrounds (we suggest devoting the whole of your first meeting to this). Pray and ask the Spirit to lead you to Christ in your discussion.

2. Text-Theology-Life (approx. 30-45 mins)

a. Text

- Each person in the Fight Club commits to devotionally read the same chapter from the Bible/one of the resources or to watch the relevant DVD session each week/fortnight/month in advance of meeting together.
- As you read/watch, make a point of asking the Holy Spirit to draw your attention to whatever He wants you to know. The Spirit may be prompting you and/or a member of your Fight Club to repent of a sin, rejoice in a promise, meditate on an insight. Make a note so that you can share your personal reflections and promptings for those in your group when you get together.
- When you meet together try to make the Bible passages raised in the chapter or the Bible chapter you've read your initial focus. Remember that it is the Word of God that pierces our hearts and helps us to see sin and Jesus more clearly (Hebrews 4:12).

b. Theology

- Work through the chapter in your Fight Club, trying to follow the flow of the author's argument.
- Ask the Spirit for wisdom and understanding.
- Try to understand the central theological message of the chapter.
- Strive to be Christ-centred, not application-centred: the goal isn't merely to look like Jesus but to know him.
- Take confidence in the fact that Jesus is sufficient for our failures and strong for our successes.
- Press one another for honest responses to the chapter (particularly in light of the knowledge you have about each other's backgrounds and histories).
- Challenge each other and encourage one another with the promises of God. In order to remain gospel-centred, be sure to glance twice at Jesus for every glance at your sin.
- Consider how Christ's various roles offer you grace in the fight.
- If you are tempted to self-righteousness, remember that Christ is your righteousness.

c. Life

- While discussing the chapter, bring your personal struggles and successes into the conversation. Be sure to allow plenty of time for this.
- Share your lives; promote grace-driven fighting and faithful prayer.
- Be sensitive to one another. Very often, one of you will need more time to share than others.
- Defer to one another in love. Fight with and not against one another.
- Finally, be sure to share the names of people whom you are trying to bless with the gospel.

3. Pray (approx. 15 mins)

- Spend some time praying the gospel into one another's lives.
- Pray promises, hopes, fears, confessions.
- Pray for people in your life who don't know Jesus.

FAQs

What should I do, I want to be in a Fight Club but am not sure who to approach...?

If you find yourself in this situation, please talk to your CityLifeGroup or serving team (e.g. Hosting Team) leader(s). Alternatively, contact the Fight Clubs Co-ordinator, using the form on the left, who will try to help you start/join a Fight Club.

How do CityLifeGroups (CLGs) and Fight Clubs work together?

CLGs are groups of 8-12 people that meet fortnightly during the week in people's homes. Meetings last around 90 minutes, starting with sharing a meal together, and include prayer and a Bible study helping us to apply the previous Sunday's sermon to our lives. Men and women of every age and background in the church are encouraged to mix and enjoy fellowship together.

Fight Clubs are more flexible and focused, intimate gatherings of 2-4 people of the same-sex of your choosing. They are intended to provide an environment in which we're at ease sharing and challenging each other about personal and sensitive issues.

Fight Clubs are about intimacy and affinity; CLGs are about interacting with the body of Christ, men and women of every age and background using their gifts to bless and minister to each other and to corporately engage in mission together.

Why no 'leaders' as such?

Our aim is to encourage every person to take ownership of the call to make disciples by taking responsibility for helping others to become more like Christ. We've decided not to spend lots of time and money training and appointing discipleship group leaders at this stage, potentially creating a 'you-the-leader', 'me-the-student' mentality. We hope that leaders will emerge organically as Fight Clubs develop across our church.

Why start with Tim Keller's *Counterfeit Gods*?

This excellent book looks at the issue of idolatry throughout the Bible. It exposes our idols. It reveals how we fall victim to the subtle temptation to take something that is good in itself and elevate it above all other things in the search for security and meaning, stunting our spiritual growth and development. This book will significantly help us to identify our sins and turn from them.

I don't feel equipped to address difficult issues – what should I do?

If issues are raised in your Fight Club that you feel too inexperienced to address, please confidentially refer the matter first to your CityLifeGroup leader(s), or where appropriate, to the Fight Clubs Co-ordinator, a deacon or a member of the Leadership Team.