

PART I: Living In Community

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READ THIS SUMMARY

As we practice Jesus, we need fellow travelers, a community to help us along the way. But community doesn't happen by accident; it takes time, effort, intentionality, and long-term fidelity. So where do we start? How do we find a community of people with whom we can practice Jesus? At Casa Evidencias we believe that the best way to do it is in small groups, around a table with people from all kinds of backgrounds. That is why we have the Evidence Groups, to make it YOUR COMMUNITY.

PRACTICE TOGETHER IN THE GROUP

This week's practice is very simple, we are just going to mention some comments that will help us prepare to form our community and for the practices to come.

- **Be Prepared:** To make the most of our time in the Evidence Groups, it is important that we all commit to participating in the practices at our own expense and to going to church (or listening to the Sunday teaching if for some reason could not go).
- **Speak for yourself:** We encourage you to share and always speak in the first person. Instead of saying "everyone's busy" or "we all have a hard time forgiving," say "I'm busy" or "forgive me." And if you are in an Evidence Group with your spouse, or child. Avoid speaking for them.
- **Respect others:** Be brief when sharing, being aware that there are time constraints and that others may want to share.
- **Do not try to fix, save, or correct other people:** It is very important that we respect the different paths of people and that we trust the Holy Spirit within them to guide them to all truth, in their time. Resist the urge to offer quick advice as people share in the group.
- **Don't make assumptions:** If you feel critical or defensive when someone else is sharing, ask yourself: I wonder what led to this belief. I wonder what we are feeling

right now. I wonder what my reaction teaches me about myself.

- **Trust and learn from silence:** It is okay to have silence between responses as the group shares, giving members a chance to reflect. Remember, there is no pressure to share.
- **Maintain confidentiality:** To create a safe environment for open and honest participation, anything someone shares within the group should not be repeated outside the group. However, feel free to share your own story and personal growth. **Note:** The only exception to confidentiality is threat or harm done to self or others. In this case THE FACILITATOR will take care of it.
- **Consistency:** To create a community where we can grow, get to know each other, and create a safe space, we must be constant and do our best to come every eight days to the Evidence Groups.

These are some guidelines that will allow us all to be on the same page as we build this community, not based on tastes or preferences, but based on the call of Jesus to Live in Community.