

SUGGESTED ACCOUNTABILITY

QUESTIONS:

1. Have you consistently read your Bible purposefully this week?
2. How has your prayer life been?
3. Are you remembering to pray for the people in this group?
4. Have you read the chapters in the book we agreed to read?
5. Are you honouring and loving your wife?
Are you being intimate emotionally and physically with your wife?
6. Have you searched for/viewed pornography this week?
7. Have you looked lustfully at another woman?
8. Have you been dishonest this week?
9. Have you done anything illegal this past week?
10. Are you giving faithfully? Are you being a good steward of what God has given you?
11. Have you had any gospel-centered conversations this past week (believers/unbelievers)?
12. Anything else we should add? (Related to fatherhood, service, discipleship, etc.)



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ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)



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TALKING POINTS:

1. MOTIVATION

The catalyst for engaging in such a venture is a desire to live a life pleasing to God, to be the best man/husband/father you can be, and to hate sin in all its forms. *Hebrews 12:1-3*

2. RELATIONSHIP

Those who come together for this common purpose do not necessarily need to have had previous connections. Friendships may emerge as the group meets over time, depending on points of interest and areas of affinity.

3. TRUST

A commitment to share honestly, keep confidences, attend faithfully and seek the good of the other are all critical to build a foundation of trust.

4. PERMISSION

While certain liberties can be assumed as brothers in Christ, extending permission to each member to admonish, correct, and rebuke as needed helps to open the way for easily speaking truth into each other's life. *Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:15*

5. TRANSPARENCY

There is obvious risk involved in disclosing sin and struggle to another, thus the aforementioned need for trust. Openness and confession are primary to accountability. Such transparency is needed in both your vertical (God) and horizontal relationships. *James 5:16*

6. MODELING

The opportunity in these groups is there for both holding each other accountable and learning from each other. While mentoring is not the priority purpose, speaking in to each other's life from our experience and growth is certainly a benefit.

7. SPOUSE

If married, your wife should still be your best friend and closest confidante. The accountability group should not replace sharing your struggles with your wife, and can run the risk of actually reinforcing secrets in your marriage relationship, if sharing only happens with the guys in your group. This is particularly true if a trust has already been broken. Realize that there is no such thing as 'private sin' – it will adversely affect both your relationship with God and your wife.

8. SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Build in to your time together a worship response, including prayer, praise, Scripture memorization (choose passages pertaining to various struggles and disciplines) and possibly Bible or book study as helpful. Be sure to thank God for the victories along with committing to him the needs.



10. STRUCTURE

While each group is free to set its own parameters for meeting, some suggested logistics would be:

- a. Physically meeting together on a regular (weekly preferred, bi-weekly minimum) basis. Note that if you are struggling/in crisis, do not wait till your scheduled meeting to ask for help!
- b. Group size between 3 minimum and 5 maximum, although accountability partners is also a helpful relationship.
- c. Set a start and end time and stay on track so each one has time to share.
- d. Meeting over food to start, with casual conversation, helps to "break the ice".
- e. Agree upon a set of questions that will be asked without fail so as not to avoid or miss an area in which someone may be struggling. This list can change as needed with the agreement of the group.
(See question suggestions provided.)

11. ADDICTION

Please note that if you are struggling with sin to the point of addiction, while accountability will be a part of your journey, you also need to seek professional help.

12. BIGGER PICTURE

Accountability groups complement your broader accountability and responsibility in the local church.