Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don’t be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren’t just ideas to know but realities to live in!

Hook - Getting to know one another

* What was your initial reaction to the [Hillcrest 5 year Shared Direction Plan](https://www.hcbellingham.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Shared-Direction-5-YrPlan-100ppi.pdf)? What questions did you have? What were you excited about? What were you hesitant about?

Book - Scripture

* Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
* Read Proverbs 3:5 - 6; 15:22; 16:3, 9; 19:21; 21:5; 27:1
* What are key truths these Scriptures say we need to keep in mind when planning?
  + List them out
* What role do these Scripture say God plays in our plans coming to fruition?
* As followers of God, how are we meant to approach planning?
  + What are key steps to take or truths to remember?

Look - Connections to our world today

* This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what’s wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
* What is encouraging about the truths in these texts?
* What is humbling about the truths in these texts?
* How have you seen the reality of these Proverbs in your own life?

Took - Personal Application

* This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
* What do you sense God saying to you about Hillcrest Church from these Scriptures?
* What do you sense God is saying to you the implications are for your small group this year?
* How might God be inviting you to speak into, or pray for, or be part of the future plans of Hillcrest Church?

Time of Prayer