

Accountability Groups

Ecclesiastes 4:12b

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

1 Thessalonians 5:11a

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up

James 5:16a

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

Hebrews 10:24

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Ephesians 5:21

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Scripture is clear that we need each other for both support and accountability. While some of this may occur in small groups or other settings, experience has shown that intentionality in meeting and sharing the challenges and opportunities of life is necessary in the hectic MBA culture. Therefore, we urge you to consider joining or starting an accountability group now. Don't wait because your calendar will fill with other things.

There are many ways to facilitate an accountability group. Ultimately, members will share whatever is on their heart. To help get things started, here are a few suggestions:

1. *Consistency* is important for building trust and follow up with each other. Once a week is a good standard.
2. *Confidentiality* is vital if members are going to share deep concerns.
3. The time together should include time for praying over matters that are being discussed.
4. The group size is best at 2-3 same sex members.
5. Some groups commit to reading specific Scripture passages during the rest of the week.
6. There is no requirement to let the leadership team know you have started an accountability group, but it would be appreciated.

Possible general topics:

1. Relationships: family, professional, classmates, issues around significant others (or lack thereof)
2. Financial decisions
3. Career decisions
4. Temptations: areas of struggle or weakness

5. School issues: processing together issues at the school, e.g., an ethics breach, diversity, the pace, etc.

Another suggestion is to use some of the following questions that have been adapted from the work of Charles Swindoll, John Wesley and others. Feel free to adapt these or other questions to fit the group.

1. How have you experienced God since we last met? Has He prompted you to do anything? If so, what are you doing about it?
2. What worries or concerns are you facing? How has God been a resource for you to deal with them?
3. Have you (purposely) exposed yourself to any sexually inappropriate material, been in a compromising situation with a member of the opposite sex, or fostered impure thoughts this week?
4. Have you spent time in prayer and in the Bible this week? When do you have your time with God? Where in the Bible are you reading?
5. How are you fulfilling your purpose in life? Have you done your part of fulfilling the Great Commission by: (a) verbally sharing Christ with someone else &/or (b) discipling other followers of Christ? Have you done your part of fulfilling the Great Commandment to love in your relationships with others, including the poor and oppressed?
6. Have you taken time off with your family and/or friends this week? Time to rest?
7. Is there anyone you need to ask for forgiveness from? Anyone to forgive? Specifically, have you secretly wished for another's misfortune so that you might excel or have you said damaging things about or to another person?
8. Have you just lied to us?
9. What other questions do you need to specifically have asked of you so you can see God work in and through you?