

Small Group Material Leader's Guide

SOUL REVOLUTION

www.soulrevolution.net



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Small Group Material Leader's Guide

The group rhythm using these materials is one week in a Small Group and then the next week in Running Partners.

Intro Week

Meet as a Small Group

Intro Group Session
Read Intro together in Group

Week 1

Meet as a Running Partners

Running Partner Guide
Read Chapters 1-3 before this meeting

Week 2

Meet as a Small Group

Read Chapters 4-5 before this meeting

Week 3

Meet as a Running Partners

Running Partner Guide
Read Chapters 6-7 before this meeting

Week 4

Meet as a Small Group

Read Chapters 8-9 before this meeting

Week 5

Meet as a Running Partners

Running Partner Guide
Read Chapters 10-11 before this meeting

Week 6

Meet as a Small Group

Read Chapters 12-13 before this meeting

Week 7

Meet as a Running Partners

Running Partner Guide
Read Chapters 14-15 before this meeting

Week 8

Meet as a Small Group

Read Chapters 16-18 before this meeting

How to Use the Soul Revolution Small Group Materials

Soul Revolution is about learning to do life with God moment by moment in community with others. It's about developing a habit of continuous conversation with God, willing to do his will, becoming all God intended you to be.

What is a Soul Revolution Small Group?

It is a group of 5 to 15 people that meet every week in the rhythm of Small Group and Running Partners for a total of nine weeks. Each person in the group commits to reading John Burke's book *Soul Revolution*, doing the 60-60 experiment and processing their experience with others in community.

Who should be the Small Group Facilitator for this Group?

The facilitator for a *Soul Revolution* Small Group should be a Christ follower that is motivated to mutually give and receive encouragement and support for a group of 5 to 15 people as they make the commitments above.

How do I use the materials provided?

As the facilitator of the group you will only need to print one copy of the materials for the weeks you lead the Small Group Materials. You do not need to print and pass out copies to everyone on these weeks. You will, however, need to print out Running Partner Materials (or have others download them from soulrevolution.net) for everyone on the weeks they meet as Running Partners.

What are Running Partners?

In the same way athletes train to reach physical goals, we need spiritual training partners to provide encouragement, pacing and motivation for spiritual goals like the 60-60 experiment. Running Partners encourage one another to become all God intends each person to be.

What does a Running Partner group look like?

Running Partners are most often a group of two, three or four people. Interestingly, we've found that the most successful partners have been groups of three. This size is still small enough to make scheduling easy, but it is large enough to give good feedback and support. Running Partners are typically of the same gender, though sometimes 1 or 2 couples may form a group.

SMALL GROUP
MATERIALS

What will happen when Running Partners meet?

The primary goal is that you will encourage one another to grow in your relationship with God. Running Partners can meet any time and place that is convenient for them. It should just be a time and place that is suitable for personal conversation. We will provide a conversation guide for use at each of the Running Partner meetings. As the facilitator of the *Soul Revolution* Group, you will distribute these guides at the group meeting, or you can ask them to download them at www.soulrevolution.net.

How do I help my group members choose their Running Partners?

For existing groups that may already know each other well, this may be as simple as just asking the group to divide up into groups of three. However for new groups this process could feel intimidating. Here are a few tips to ease the process:

1. Be sure you take the time to do the get acquainted exercises suggested in the Small Group materials during the Intro week. Even that little bit of information can help people feel comfortable with each other.
2. Remind the group that forming Running Partners is part of the 60-60 'experiment,' which means that they will be trying it out only until the end of the Soul Revolution series. Running Partners are only expected to meet 4 times.

What if our Running Partners don't seem to be working well together?

It is always wise to talk this over with your group and to encourage the Running Partners to discuss the issue with each other. "How does this seem to be working so far?" is a great open question to encourage your Running Partners to ask each other after the first meeting or two. It also may be wise to send out an email to the whole group after the first Running Partner meeting to ask for feedback. Sometimes it makes sense to shift groups around after a couple of weeks, or sometimes it just takes some patience to allow the group to work through some differences in personality. It will also help to regularly review the "Rules of Running."

Leadership Tips for Soul Revolution Groups

Remember that you are not alone. When God calls you to step out to lead others, he will provide what you need. Pray for your group members and about your needs and your fears. Expect that God will give you the resources you need. Also talk to your Community Leader or other staff support member. These folks are called and equipped by God to support you with encouragement, guidance, and prayer.

Prepare well. Don't wait until the last minute to prepare. Read the lesson over several days in advance and think through the questions and answers which you think will come up. Generally speaking if you spend about 90 minutes in preparing for the group meetings, you should be ready. Also, don't feel like you need ask every question in the material. Facilitate the group using the materials that best work for you and the needs of your group.

Materials needed each group. Be prepared during the Small Group sessions to have blank paper and pens available for everyone. You will need these for some of the group exercises.

Lead from a position of authenticity. Your group does not need you to be the "Bible-Answer-Man" who can give long responses to every question that comes up. Instead they need you to share authentically what God is doing in your own heart. Share your struggles and your victories. People relate to leaders who are real.

When you ask a question, be willing to wait. Often people need time to think before they respond. Don't get uncomfortable with a little silence. Some people are hesitant to share in a group, so be sensitive to them. Often you can help the discussion flow by affirming those who speak, and then saying, "Does anyone else have something to add?"

Follow-up, and ask for feedback. A personal phone call or email to group members is a powerful way to communicate that you care about them. This is especially important with first time visitors or when someone misses the group meeting. It is also a great way to get feedback about what is working or not working in the group.

Think and pray about next steps for your group. *Soul Revolution* group will be great first step for many people, but we believe that God will be prompting each person to take a next step when this group ends. Who may be ready to join another Gateway group or ministry? Who might be an emerging leader? Talk to your Community Leader about the available options.

TIPS

LEADERSHIP

Shared Responsibility Opportunities

It may seem counter-intuitive, but nothing builds the sense of belonging in a group faster than when the leader shares responsibility with other members. Plan on asking for volunteers to bring the snacks, keep the prayer list, be the group communicator sending emails to everyone, planning a social event, or even facilitate the lesson.

Shared group responsibilities could include:

- Bringing the drinks and snacks
- Keeping a group prayer list
- Being the group communicator sending emails to everyone
- Planning a social event for the group
- Facilitating the session

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Soul Revolution Small Group Material

Intro Week – Group Session

THE POINT: God wants to connect with you in a radical, ongoing conversation.

OPENING: Testing the Connection

Begin by distributing a copy of the book, *Soul Revolution*, to each person. Then say:

Welcome to our Soul Revolution study! Over the next nine weeks, we're going to embark together on a relational experiment with God. The experiment is called the 60-60, and it's as simple as it is challenging:

We're each going to set our watch or cell phone to beep once every 60 minutes, for the next 60 days. Each time it beeps, we're going to pause, remember that God is present with us in that moment no matter what we're doing, and invite Him to guide us step by step in the midst of our lives. We're going to do an experiment to see how God shows up and begins growing us into the people we long to be as we just do the one thing Jesus said is necessary for accomplishing anything lasting: "If you remain in me, you will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

To guide us through this experiment, we're each going to be reading this book, *Soul Revolution*, by John Burke, (which is based on Jesus' teachings his last night on earth). We'll be meeting together every other week as we are right now to explore some of the key ideas in this book together as a community. We'll also be forming Spiritual Running Partner relationships (with two or three other people in the group), and you'll be meeting with your Running Partners in the weeks between our group sessions. I'll provide you with discussion guides for those conversations as well.

GET ACQUAINTED: [10 minutes or so] Getting to know one another's life story is an important part of building engaging relationships. Use these questions to begin learning about the lives of the people in your group.

Give each person in the group a chance to answer these three questions. As the leader you can go first and set the pace for only using 60 seconds or so to answer all of these questions.

- What are you doing to put food on the table each day?
- Who are people at the top of your speed dial phone list?
- What are you doing when you are having lots of fun?

Get a watch that beeps every hour.

If some people in your group don't have watches that can be set to beep every 60 minutes, let them know that they can find a link on the website www.soulrevolution.net that will point them to places where they can purchase a cheap watch that can be set to beep once every hour.

OVER THE NEXT WEEK

To begin our journey, let's read together a short message from the author, John Burke.

Ask a few volunteers to take turns reading aloud pages 9-15 of *Soul Revolution*, the section titled "Deep Longings—My Journey of Faith." After the reading, ask: [25 minutes or so]

- What's your reaction to Burke's invitation?
- What do you suspect would be the most challenging thing about going through the 60-60?
- What is your greatest hope for what an experiment like this could do for you?
- What support would you need to stick with the experiment over the next 60 days?

Then, have each person respond to these questions:

- On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being "totally connected"), how "connected" do you currently feel to God in your daily life?
- Why do you suppose that is?

Once everyone has responded, read this quote by A.W. Tozer from his book *The Pursuit of God*:

"God is a person, and in the deep of His mighty nature He thinks, wills, enjoys, feels, loves, desires, and suffers as any other person may. In making Himself known to us He stays by the familiar pattern of personality. He communicates with us through the avenues of our minds, our wills and our emotions. The continuous and unembarrassed interchange of love and thought between God and the soul of the redeemed man [or woman] is the throbbing heart of the New Testament religion."

Then ask:

- What thoughts or feelings come up for you as you hear this quote?
- How would your life be different if you were convinced that God wants to connect with you in a radical ongoing conversation?

Say:

To experience the revolutionary life that God wants for us, we have to wholeheartedly "buy in" to this foundational truth—that He really does want to connect with each of us in a radical, ongoing conversation. In our time together, we'll look at where that belief comes from in the Bible, and explore together what might be keeping us from experiencing that connection with God in the way we really want.

EXPERIENCE: The God of Our Own Design [25 minutes or so]

Form two groups. Give each person a sheet of paper and a pen or marker. At the top of their papers, have one group write, "The God of my Doubts." Then, say to that group:

When life is hard, or things don't go your way, what happens to your

What's a Running Partner?

In the same way athletes train to reach physical goals, we need spiritual training partners to provide encouragement, pacing and motivation for spiritual goals like the 60/60. A Running Partner is a person (typically of the same gender) whom you can trust with your struggles and concerns, as well as your dreams and goals. You encourage each other to become all God intends you to be. Running Partners could be a group of two, three or four people. We've found that the most successful partners have been groups of three or four. More than four and it becomes more like a small group.

concept or perception of God? What doubts do you begin to have about His character, or about the way He feels toward you? On your sheet, write a description of the God you see through the lens of your doubts. Don't hold back. Be honest about your doubts when it comes to God's character or His love. When you're finished, we'll share our descriptions with one another.

At the top of their papers, have the second group write, "The God of my Dreams." Then, say to that group:

What happens to your opinion of God when life is really great? When times are really good, what do you find yourself thinking about God's character, or His love for you? On your sheet, write a description of the God of your Dreams. Don't hold back. Really describe your "best vision" of what God is like—the way you feel about Him when life is really going your way. When you're finished, we'll share our descriptions with one another.

When everyone is finished, have group member's partner with someone from the other group and share their descriptions of God.

Afterward, call everyone back together and ask:

- What stood out to you in your partner's description of God?
- What were the main differences between your partners God and your God?
- How is creating these multiple descriptions of God similar to the way we deal with God in real life?
- Why do you suppose we are so prone to "recast" our opinion of God according to how we currently feel about our lives?
- What does it mean to "take God as He is"?

Say:

God wants to connect with you in a radical, ongoing conversation. But for that to happen, we have to let go of our "doubt list" and our "wish list" and accept God for who He really is. Let's take some time to explore what Jesus said about who God really is, and the kind of powerful, intimate connection He wants with each of us.

BIBLE STUDY: God As He Is [20 minutes or so]

Form groups of two or three and assign each group one of the following passages. (If your group is small, it's okay to assign pairs or triads more than one passage):

- John 14:6-9
- John 14:16-21
- John 14:25-26
- John 15:1-5
- John 16:12-15

Have each pair or triad answer these questions based on their assigned passage:

- What does this passage tell you about what God is like—His personality or desires?
- What does this passage say about the kind of relationship God wants to have with us?

While groups are working, set out a large sheet of poster board or newsprint in the center of the room (or, if you prefer, tape the poster board or newsprint to the wall). At the top of the sheet, write “The Relationship God Wants.” When groups are finished, have them take turns reading their assigned passage and sharing what they discovered about the true nature of God and the relationship He wants with us. Record the groups’ observations on the poster board or newsprint.

Give participants a moment to review the list of observations they’ve come up with. Then ask:

- What stands out to you about the observations we’ve listed?
- Jesus spoke a lot about the importance of “abiding in” or “staying connected” to Him? What does that mean practically to you? What would it look like to actually do this?
- What makes it hard for you to believe that God really wants to connect with you in a radical, ongoing conversation?
- What gets in the way of us staying connected and listening to God in the way these passages describe?
- Imagine for a moment that everything we’ve read in these passages is totally true, and that you always fully believed it. How might the presence of this radical, ongoing conversation with God impact your daily life?
- What shift or change would you have to make in your attitude or behavior to allow this conversation to happen (or happen more consistently)?

Say:

The “God Who Is” is all about relationship. He wants to connect with you in an intimate, ongoing conversation—talking and listening moment by moment, leading and guiding and helping you grow. That’s the heart of the Christian faith. But in order for you to experience it, you have to let go of your misperceptions about God, believe that He is exactly who He says He is in the Bible, and trust that He wants that radical, intimate connection with you every day. This is the crux of our 60-Day Experiment. As we talk about God’s plan for how we can become all God intended us to be, we’re asking you to just get crazy and try living Jesus’ Revolutionary Kingdom-way wholeheartedly for 60 days—and just see if it isn’t the path to the life you long for.

CLOSING: Next Steps [10 minutes or so]

Ask:

- Are you willing to accept the challenge of the 60-Day Experiment—and trust that God wants to connect with you in a radical, ongoing conversation? Why or why not?
- What do you think is the next step for you toward a closer connection with God?

After several people have responded, hand out a sheet of paper and a pen to each person. On their sheet, have group members write one way they will pursue a radical, ongoing conversation with God this week. At the top of the sheet, have them write their name and their email or phone number.

When everyone is finished, have group members form Running Partner groups of two, three or four and share what they've written. Then, have them write down their Running Partners' contact information.

Say:

Your job is to support your partners this week in their decision. You can do this by praying for your partners every day, and emailing or calling them at least once during the week to see how their pursuit of God is going.

Raise your hand and ask:

Will you agree to do this for your partners this week? Ask those who agree to raise their hand.

Distribute a copy of the "Running Partner Conversation Guide" for Week 2 to each person. (These conversation guides are also available for download on www.soulrevolution.net.) Remind the group that next week (and every other week in this experiment) they will be meeting with their Running Partners instead of a large group meeting.

Tell them to read chapters 1 thru 3 of *Soul Revolution* before they meet with their Running Partners next week (don't worry—the chapters are short!), and to use the conversation guide you just gave them as a template for their time together.

Ask if there are any questions, then say:

I'm excited that we are taking on the challenge of reading through this book (*Soul Revolution*) and taking on the 60-Day Experiment—and trusting that God wants to connect with you in a radical, ongoing conversation. I believe this is going to be a life-changing experience for us.

Just one final note: At the end of each chapter in the book is a guide in how to do this 60-60 experiment—so get a watch that beeps on the hour, or set your cell phone alarm to do the same, and begin to focus your attention on connecting with God in an ongoing conversation all through the day. God is here and wants to do life together.

Close with prayer.

**Running Partner
Contact Information**

If you don't already have it, copy down the contact information for each person in your group before they leave. Then send out an email to the group in the next day or two to give them contact info for each person in the group and encourage them to visit www.soulrevolution.net.

**Running Partner
Conversation Guides**

As the group facilitator you should print copies of the Running Partner Guide for the next week and pass out to the Running Partners. You may also send them a .pdf file of the material available for download on the [soulrevolution.net](http://www.soulrevolution.net) web-site.

Soul Revolution Running Partner Guide

Week 1 – With Running Partners

Soul Revolution chapters 1 thru 3

Over the next eight weeks, we're inviting your Small Group and your Running Partners to embark together on a relational experiment with God. The experiment is called the 60-60, and it's as simple as it is challenging:

You'll each set your watch to beep once every 60 minutes, for the next 60 days. Each time your watch beeps, pause a moment to remember that God is present with you in that moment no matter what you're doing, and consciously invite Him to guide you step by step in the midst of your daily life. We're doing this experiment to see how God shows up and begins growing us into the people we long to be as we focus on doing the one thing Jesus said is necessary for accomplishing anything lasting: "If you remain in me, you will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Here's your conversation guide for this week:

GETTING STARTED: [15 minutes or so]

If the people in your Running Partner group are new relationships for you these are good questions to get acquainted:

- When and why did you start coming to church here?
- What was your spiritual background before this church?
- What are 3 things that you'd like us to know about you?

If you already know the people in your Running Partner group answer these questions to get started:

- What are you looking forward to in this Running Partner relationship?
- What freaks you out or is scary about this for you?

Set your watch to beep every hour

If you haven't already, take a moment right now to set your watch to beep every 60 minutes. The point of the beep is to interrupt us and remind us that God is with us and wants to lead and guide us all day. A cell phone alarm can serve as a reminder as well. If your watch isn't capable of being set to beep every hour, tell your Running Partners when you will purchase a watch that can be set in this way.

WEEK
1
60

RE: CENTER [15 minutes or so]

Read aloud together the “Rules of Running” on page 147 of *Soul Revolution*, and affirm together that you’ll abide by those guidelines in this conversation. (The “Rules of Running” are also available on the Running Partner Card that you can download on www.soulrevolution.net.) Since this is your first conversation, feel free to read pages 147-149 of *Soul Revolution* for a more in-depth description of each of the “Rules of Running” to ensure you’re all in agreement about what the rules are and how they work.

Take a moment to pray together—either silently or aloud—inviting God to guide your conversation and to teach you how to support one another as you go through the 60-60 experience together.

After the prayer, do a brief “check in”: Tell your Running Partner(s) where you are today on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being “I’m doing great today!” and 1 being “My life is really hard today”), and the top one or two dominant emotions you are feeling right now. Do **not** share a lot of detail at this point about *why* you feel the way you do. Just state how you’re feeling and leave it at that.

RE: FINE [25 minutes or so]

Take **one person at a time** completely through the following ‘exploration’ process. If this is your first time in a Running Partner relationship we understand that self disclosure is based on trust, security and confidentiality. Moderate your answers based on your current level of trust for the others in the group.

1. What do you think God is trying to do in your life right now?
 - How have you experienced the fruits of the Spirit lately (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, etc. - Galatians 5:22)?
 - How have you treated those you do life with?
 - What sin have you been conscious of this week?
2. If there’s one area you need to focus on, to better love God, love people, build character, or build Christ’s Church, what would it be?
3. What’s one thing you will intentionally do to take steps of growth?
4. Have you said the “last 10%” or have you held back today?

RE: EXAMINE [30 minutes or so]

Read together the following passages:

- Jeremiah 29:11-13; 31:3
- Matthew 6:26-33
- Romans 8:31-32, 38-39

Now read through the passages a second time and write down everything God says in these verses about His love and goodness toward you. Then discuss:

- What aspect of God’s love and character described in these

Saying the Last 10%

The “last 10%” refers to whatever it is that you might have held back from sharing so far in the conversation. Where are you holding back? What is it that you know you need to share, but are afraid to? That’s the “last 10%.” Take the bold step to share your “last 10%” with your partners.

verses do you have the hardest time believing?

- Why do you suppose that is?

Turn to page 45 in *Soul Revolution* and read aloud item 3 under the exercise titled “How to Do the 60-60 Experiment.” This week, make it your goal to reflect on God’s character every hour—particularly that aspect of His goodness or love that you struggle to believe.

- Are you willing to take on that assignment? Why or why not?

RE: NEW [15 minutes or so]

Close out your time by having each person respond to one or two of these questions:

- What stood out to you most in the readings for this week?
- What are you taking away from today’s conversation that you want to remember as you continue the 60-60 over the next week?
- What’s one specific thing your Running Partner(s) can do to one or two of support you as you do the 60-60 over the next week?

Read chapters 4 thru 5 of *Soul Revolution* before the Small Group meeting next week.

Soul Revolution Small Group Material

Week 2 – Group Session

Soul Revolution chapters 4 thru 5

THE POINT: You can stay connected to God's Spirit and follow His lead.

OPENING: Checking In [30 minutes or so]

Begin by inviting several volunteers to share how the 60-60 experiment is going for them. Ask one or two of these questions to get the conversation started:

- How's the 60-60 been going for you over the past few weeks?
- What are you learning about yourself in this process?
- What are you learning about connecting with God?
- What's been the hardest part for you so far?
- What's been the most encouraging part so far?
- What stood out to you in the reading this week?

EXPERIENCE: God in the Stillness [30 minutes or so]

Before doing this experience, be sure to minimize the ambient noise in your meeting room. Put the pets outside, turn off any background music, etc. The goal is to make the room as quiet and still as possible.

Have group members find a place to get comfortable. It's fine if some of them want to stretch out on the couch or lie on the floor.

Then say:

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit—that is, the Spirit of God—is always present with us, and that He is here to guide us to a radical new life in God. But how do we sense the promptings of the Holy Spirit? How do we get ourselves in a place where we can hear and follow God's Spirit?

I'm going to lead you through a guided prayer. Through this experience, we're going to practice a simple skill to help us learn how to connect with the Holy Spirit and follow His lead. I ask that you remain as quiet as possible during this experience, and simply follow the instructions as I give them.

Have group members take a deep breath and close their eyes. Tell them to keep their eyes closed until you say to open them. Then, read aloud the following guided meditative prayer. Read slowly and naturally, and pause for a second or two between each sentence.

WEEK TWO

Say:

As we settle in to pray, take a moment to focus your awareness on your breathing. Gently concentrate on a few breaths, noticing the movement of the air through your nose, down your trachea, and into your lungs. Pay very close attention to the movement of your abdomen as you breathe, taking care to allow your belly to round out as you inhale and allowing it to collapse inward as you exhale. Make certain to draw into your lungs all the air that you want. There's no need to hyperventilate or to breathe heavily. Simply take in all the air that you want and, when you exhale, exhale fully, blowing out the last bit of air. Breathe at a pace that is comfortable for you.

Notice how it feels to focus your attention right here, right now, in this present moment. Keep your focus present and relaxed as I read some encouraging words from the Bible to you. As I read, simply let the words wash over you, and notice how they impact you as you listen.

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing...Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."
(John 15:5, 9-11)

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law...But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."
(Gal 5:16-18, 22-23)

In the quietness of your own thoughts, take a moment to invite God's Spirit into this moment with you. Invite Him to teach you how to abide in Him... right here, right now...and invite Him to open your heart to hear whatever He may want to share with you.

[PAUSE FOR 30 SECONDS]

Jesus, we acknowledge in this moment...right here, right now...that you are God, that you are the King of Everything, and you are King over us. We humble ourselves in this moment, and invite you to rule over this moment, and to meet us here. We offer ourselves to you, just as we are, hiding nothing, holding nothing back...and we welcome you to speak to us about anything you want.

Give us ears to hear Lord - what do you want to say to us right now?

Take a moment and simply listen. Ask him, "Jesus, what do you want to say to me right now?"

[PAUSE FOR 30 SECONDS]

When you are ready, slowly open your eyes. For a moment, say nothing and simply look around at the room and the others here with you.

Close the experience by asking participants to respond to these questions:

- What happened? What did you notice?
- What do you notice about your awareness of God's Spirit here with you?
- What happened when I asked you to sit quietly and listen to God's Spirit?
- What do you make of that?
- What can we learn from this experience about what it takes to connect with God's Spirit?

BIBLE STUDY: Connect and Follow [25 minutes or so]

Ask a volunteer to read aloud 1 Corinthians 2:9-12. Then ask:

- According to this passage, why is staying connected to God's Spirit and following His lead so important?
- What's important to you about staying connected to God? And about following His lead?

Ask a volunteer to read aloud John 15:5, 9-12. Then say:

In this passage, Jesus gives us three directives or requirements for staying connected to God (i.e. "abiding in Christ"):

- **Abide, or remain, in Jesus' love for you.**
- **Follow His instruction.**
- **Love others as God has loved you.**

Ask:

- What is it to stay connected to, abide, in Jesus' love for you?
- What is it to follow Jesus' instruction?
- What is it to love others as God loves you?
- What does all this have to do with connecting with God's Spirit and following His lead in everyday life?

Read aloud Galatians 5:16-18, 22-23. Then ask:

- Based on all we've discussed so far, what do you think it means to "walk in the Spirit"?
- What's really stopping you from walking in the Spirit in your daily life?
- What will you do this week to move toward staying connected with God's Spirit and following His lead?

CLOSING: Your Challenge This Week [5 minutes or so]

Turn to pages 89-90 in *Soul Revolution* and read aloud for the group the section titled "The 60-60 Experiment." After the reading, say:

I'd like to make this our challenge for the next few weeks. You'll find it on pages 89-90 of the book.

Are you willing to take this on? (Get a show of hands.)

Also, read chapters 6 thru 7 of *Soul Revolution* before the Running Partner meeting next week.

Close with prayer.

NOTE: Be sure to distribute the Running Partner Conversation Guide for Week 3 before participants leave. (The guide is also available for download on www.soulrevolution.net.)

Soul Revolution Running Partner Guide

Week 3 – With Running Partners

Soul Revolution chapters 6 thru 7

RE: CENTER [5 minutes or so]

Read aloud together the “Rules of Running” on page 147 of *Soul Revolution*, and affirm together that you’ll abide by those guidelines in this conversation. (The “Rules of Running” are also available on the Running Partner Card that you can download on www.soulrevolution.net.)

Take a moment to pray together—either silently or aloud—inviting God to guide your conversation and to teach you how to support one another as you go through the 60-60 experience together.

After the prayer, do a brief “check in”: Tell your running partner(s) where you are today on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being “I’m doing great today!” and 1 being “My life is really hard today”), and the top one or two dominant emotions you are feeling right now. Do **not** share a lot of detail at this point about why you feel the way you do (that will come later). Just state how you’re feeling and leave it at that.

RE: FINE [25 minutes or so]

Take one person at a time completely through the following exploration process:

1. What do you think God is trying to do in your life right now?

- How have you experienced the fruits of the Spirit lately (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, etc. - Galatians 5:22)?
- How have you treated those you do life with?
- What sin have you been conscious of this week?

2. If there’s one area you need to focus on, to better love God, love people, build character, or build Christ’s Church, what would it be?

3. What’s one thing you will intentionally do to take steps of growth?

4. Have you said the “last 10%” or have you held back today?

Saying the Last 10%

The “last 10%” refers to whatever it is that you might have held back from sharing so far in the conversation.

Where are you holding back? What is it that you know you need to share, but are afraid to? That’s the “last 10%.” Take the bold step to share your “last 10%” with your partners.



RE: EXAMINE [45 minutes or so]

Read aloud Matthew 5:23-24. Then discuss:

- What does this tell us about how important conflict resolution is to God?
- Why do you think it's so important to him?

Think back to a significant conflict you've had with someone close to you. It might be recent, or many years ago. But choose a conflict that you feel was resolved very positively. In other words, the relationship was restored and everything worked out great.

For the sake of this discussion, don't use any real names in your story (except your own, of course). Instead, make up a name for the person you'll be talking about. When you're ready, take turns telling your Running Partner(s) specifically what the conflict was, how it affected your relationship, and how you resolved it. Take about **two minutes** each to share your story. Go!

After all the stories have been shared, take some time to give your partners positive feedback on the way they handled the conflict

- What was brilliant about the way they partner(s) handled their conflict?
- How did humility show up in the stories you heard?
- Where did they display courage?
- What was love's role in the stories you heard?

We can all learn from each other how to resolve conflicts effectively. It's probably clear from the stories you've shared that authentic relationships require humility and the courage to resolve conflicts in love. Even though we know this, however, we don't always handle conflict the way we know is best. Some relationships end up in our relational graveyard. Some of your relationships may be in the throes of conflict right now.

Take some time to share *another* story about a conflict in your life. As before, it could be past or present. And as before, don't use any real names. But this time, choose a conflict that did not end well, or perhaps is still not resolved. Tell your Running Partner(s) what the conflict is, how it has impacted your relationship, and how you wish it had been (or could be) resolved.

You have **two minutes** each to share your story. Ready? Go!

After you've heard one another's stories of unresolved conflict, work together to create a unified strategy for a humble, courageous, loving way that you could have—or perhaps still can—resolve this major conflict in your life. To create your strategy, draw heavily from these three passages (Read them aloud):

- Proverbs 12:1
- Romans 12:16-18
- Matthew 18:15-17

Based on these passages, work with your Running Partner(s) to create a strategy for how your conflicts (or any conflict) might be resolved in a humble, courageous, loving way. Remember, to have any kind of authentic relationship requires humility and the courage to resolve conflict in love. This is our opportunity to authentically apply those principles to our real lives.

When everyone is satisfied with the strategy, commit together to use this strategy in your current conflict (or the next time you have conflict), and devise a way to hold each other accountable to follow through.

RE: NEW [10 minutes or so]

Close out your time by having each person respond to one or two of these questions:

- What stood out to you most in the readings for this week?
- What are you taking away from today's conversation that you want to remember as you continue the 60-60 over the next week?
- What's one specific thing your Running Partner(s) can do to support you as you do the 60-60 over the next week?

Read chapters 8 thru 9 of *Soul Revolution* before the Small Group meeting next week.

Soul Revolution Small Group Material

Week 4 – Group Session

Soul Revolution chapters 8 thru 9

THE POINT: God redeems our lives in the context of transparent, loving relationships with others.

OPENING: Checking In [15 minutes or so]

Begin by inviting several volunteers to share how the 60-60 experiment is going for them. Ask one or two of these questions to get the conversation started:

- How's the 60-60 been going for you over this past few weeks?
- What are you learning about yourself in this process?
- What are you learning about connecting with God?
- What's been the hardest part for you so far?
- What's been the most encouraging part so far?
- What stood out to you in the reading this week?

EXPERIENCE #1: That Thing Between Us [30 minutes or so]

After the check in, pair off and give one person in each pair a sheet of blank paper. Say:

For the next 30 seconds, I want the person holding the paper to tell your partner about your day. But...while you talk, hold the sheet of paper in front of your face so that your partner cannot see you. Ready? Go!

After 30 seconds, have the partners switch roles and repeat the activity. Afterward, collect the papers. Then ask several of the following questions to explore the exercise:

- What's your reaction to this experience?
- Which was worse—being the talker or the listener? Explain.
- Why do you suppose it was harder to really listen to what your partner was saying?
- How is this experience similar to listening to someone in real life who is hiding themselves in some way?
- How was the experience of holding the paper in front of you as you talked similar to the way you sometimes hide your true self from others?
- If what we really want in life is to be known and loved for who we

WEEK 4

really are, why do you suppose we hide so much?

Say:

We all want to be known and loved for who we really are. Really, that's the main reason most of us come to this group. We each want to be seen. We want to know that we're loved and accepted despite our flaws, our struggles or our mistakes.

God wants us to have those kinds of relationships too. In fact, from God's point of view, that sort of unguarded, trusting relationship is absolutely essential. That's because God redeems (restores our lives to what he intended) in the context of transparent, loving relationships with others. We simply cannot become all that God wants us to be without "open-hearted" relationships with other willing people. There is no other way to have the rich, full, abundant life that God wants for us.

But what is it really like to be truly vulnerable and transparent with one another in a context of acceptance and love? Later in this session, we're going to share an experience that will help us find out. But first, let's look at what the Bible has to say about the importance of "open hearted" relationships.

BIBLE STUDY: "Open Hearted" Relationships

Ask a few volunteers to read aloud John 15:12-13 and Romans 15: 7. Ask:

- What does it feel like to be fully loved and accepted by another person?
- Why does God want us to give this powerful love and acceptance to each other?
- What stops us from really loving and accepting each other?
- What's the big risk that God is asking us to take with each other?

Ask two more volunteers to read aloud James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-9. Ask:

- What is powerful about confessing your sins and struggles with others? What's the benefit?
- In the context of living in transparent, loving relationship with others, what does it mean to "walk in the Light as He is in the Light" (1 John 1:7)?
- What would "walking in the Light" look like if we practiced it here in this group?

Say:

God wants us to live in a new way with one another—no longer hiding or pretending we're better than we are; but instead, being honest and vulnerable, taking the risk to be fully ourselves, just as we are, so that He can use us as instruments of healing and inspiration in one another's lives. God redeems our hearts in the context of transparent, loving relationships with others.

EXPERIENCE #2: Face to Face [30 minutes or so]

Form new pairs. Note: Although it's generally fine for husbands and wives to partner together, for the purposes of this experience, it would be best to have group members partner with someone of the same gender. Have pairs sit comfortably facing one another, but not touching.

Say:

What we're about to do is very serious. The Bible tells us that the eyes are the window to the soul. When you look into someone's eyes, you can see something of the deep truth of who they really are. In just a moment, I'm going to ask you to look into your partner's eyes and silently hold eye contact with him or her for a full 60 seconds. During that time, you may feel the urge to look away. Some of you may feel the nervous need to laugh. I challenge you to do neither. Instead, keep your focus, and look. Don't speak, and don't look away.

I will time the experience. At the end of 60 seconds, I will say, "Time is up." Then we will discuss the experience together.

Before you begin, allow group members a moment to prepare themselves. Some of them may be feeling particularly nervous or "exposed." If that's so, assure them that their feelings are perfectly natural and to be expected—but challenge them to do the experience anyway.

On "go," let the experience begin. If someone laughs or looks away, make a note of it, but say nothing. At the end of one full minute, call time, and invite everyone to join in the following discussion:

- How did it feel?
- What did you notice about yourself in the experience?
- What did you notice about your partner?
- What did you learn?
- How is this experience similar to being in an open, vulnerable, loving relationship in real life?
- Based on this experience, what do you need in order to really be transparent with others?

CLOSING: Looking at Us [15 minutes or so]

Distribute slips of paper and pens. Have each person anonymously rate (from 1 to 10) how "transparent and loving" they believe the group currently is. After everyone is finished, collect the slips and then read the scores aloud, one at a time. Then ask:

- What's your reaction to hearing these scores?
- What would have to happen for this group to be a "10" when it comes to loving and accepting each other without judgment?
- What would have to happen for this group to be a "10" when it comes to being open and vulnerable with each other?
- What will we, as a group, commit to do more of in the coming weeks of the 60-60 experiment?

- What will we, as a group, commit to do less of?

Close with prayer.

NOTE: Be sure to distribute the Running Partner Conversation Guide for Week 5 before participants leave. Tell group members to read through and begin work on the “RE:EXAMINE” portion of the conversation guide before they meet with their Running Partners next week. That section includes an important assignment that will take a little extra personal work—but it's worth it!

Also, read chapters 10 thru 11 of *Soul Revolution* before the Running Partner meeting next week.

Soul Revolution Running Partner Guide

Week 5 – With Running Partners

Soul Revolution chapters 10 thru 11

RE: CENTER [5 minutes or so]

Read aloud together the “Rules of Running” on page 147 of *Soul Revolution*, and affirm together that you’ll abide by those guidelines in this conversation.

Take a moment to pray together—either silently or aloud—inviting God to guide your conversation and to teach you how to support one another as you go through the 60-60 experience together.

After the prayer, do a brief “check in”: Tell your running partner(s) where you are today on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being “I’m doing great today!” and 1 being “My life is really hard today”), and the top one or two dominant emotions you are feeling right now. Do not share a lot of detail at this point about why you feel the way you do. Just state how you’re feeling and leave it at that.

RE: FINE [25 minutes or so]

Take one person at a time completely through the following exploration process:

1. What do you think God is trying to do in your life right now?
 - How have you experienced the fruits of the Spirit lately (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, etc. - Galatians 5:22)?
 - How have you treated those you do life with?
 - What sin have you been conscious of this week?
2. If there’s one area you need to focus on, to better love God, love people, build character, or build Christ’s Church, what would it be?
3. What’s one thing you will intentionally do to take steps of growth?
4. Have you said the “last 10%” or have you held back today?

RE: EXAMINE [45 minutes or so]

Turn to pages 163-165 in *Soul Revolution*, the section titled “The 60-60 Experiment,” and spend the next half hour following the instructions there to complete a full spiritual inventory if you didn’t already do so. Share the results with your Running Partner(s). Be sure to follow the guidelines in how to listen and respond to someone’s spiritual inventory.



RE: NEW [15 minutes or so]

Close out your time by having each person respond to one or two of these questions:

- What stood out to you most in the readings for this week?
- What are you taking away from today's conversation that you want to remember as you continue the 60-60 over the next week?
- What's one specific thing your Running Partner(s) can do to support you as you do the 60-60 over the next week?

Read chapters 12 thru 13 of *Soul Revolution* before the Small Group meeting next week.

Soul Revolution Small Group Material

Week 6 – Group Session

Soul Revolution chapters 12 thru 13

THE POINT: You need to cultivate “sacred habits” to keep you on the path of following God’s lead.

OPENING: Checking In [15 minutes or so]

Begin by inviting several volunteers to share how the 60-60 experiment is going for them. Ask one or two of these questions to get the conversation started:

- How’s the 60-60 been going for you over this past few weeks?
- What are you learning about yourself in this process?
- What are you learning about connecting with God?
- What’s been the hardest part for you so far?
- What’s been the most encouraging part so far?
- What stood out to you in the reading this week?

After several minutes of discussion, say: [15 minutes or so]

Throughout the 60 Days of this journey, we’ve been experimenting with the “60-60 prayer”—that is, setting our watches to beep every hour to remind us to reconnect with God and follow His lead throughout the day. Even though we haven’t described it this way, this “60-60” thing we’ve been doing is actually a great example of an “intentional practice.”

An intentional practice is like a “sacred habit” that we purposefully develop to keep us on the path of following God’s lead and growing spiritually. Some sacred habits are common to all Christ Followers—such as learning to stay connected with God throughout the day in prayer, having one or more spiritual running partners in your life, and regularly studying the Bible. But other sacred habits can be as varied and unique as we are. For example, a sacred habit could be that you pray whenever you walk your dog, or meditate on a Scripture passage every day during your commute to work. It could be a spiritually affirming statement you read whenever you feel a certain temptation. It could be that you discuss your day and then pray with your spouse every night before bed, or that you listen to worship music on your mp3 player whenever you exercise. It could be that you fast and pray one day out of each month, or that you regularly “fast” from something other than food, like television or video games, so that you can reconnect more intentionally with God.



Assign a different person to read each of these passages of scripture aloud:

- 1 Corinthians 9:24-25
- 1 Timothy 4:7-8
- Hebrews 12:11

Then ask:

- What is the value of spiritual training according to these passages?
- What spiritual practices have worked well for you in the past?

We all need sacred habits like these to keep us on the path of following God's lead. But they don't just happen automatically. We are active partners with God in our spiritual growth. God causes the growth in our lives, but it's our job to prepare the soil, and keep it rich. Developing sacred habits is one of the key ways we do this.

EXPERIENCE: Interview with the 'Future You' [55 minutes or so]

Give each person several sheets of paper and a pen. Say:

Let's explore how developing a new sacred habit could change your life. At the top of a sheet of paper, write a description of a pattern of behavior, an attitude, or a habit in your life that you would like to change. Focus on a behavior or attitude that you know pulls you away from God's best for your life.

When group members have finished, ask for volunteers who are willing to share what they wrote. It's important that you do not "react" with shock, surprise or disapproval to what group members share, regardless of what it is. Instead, simply listen with acceptance and love. (It's also fine, by the way, if no one shares anything.) Once a few people have shared what they wrote, say:

We all have areas of our lives we'd like to change. For the moment, let's set these aside and take some time to dream together about what's possible.

At the top of a new sheet of paper, have group members write: "Interview with the Future Me." Say:

Let's imagine its 5 years from now. For the sake of our exploration, let's assume that the 'Future You' has found a way to deeply and regularly connect with God. You are living a rich, full, abundant life by successfully and consistently following God's lead every day. It's been quite a transformation. You are more alive than you've ever been. You are loving life and excited about the future. You have moved passed the obstacles that have historically kept you from God's best, and you are now walking the Way of Christ with delight and passion.

Take a moment to really picture this 'Future You' in your mind. Picture the expression on your face in this future reality. What is it? What kind of clothes are you wearing? What's the general "vibe" this 'Future You' gives off to those around?

For the next few minutes, keep the image of this 'Future You' in your mind. I'm going to ask you a series of questions about this 'Future You,' and I want you to write a response to each question on your paper. Afterward, we'll share some of what we wrote.

Guide group members to write a response to each of the following questions. Be sure to pause between questions to allow participants time to write. Ask:

- As you look at the Future You, what stands out to you?
- What's the dominate attitude or feeling that your Future You conveys about his or her life?
- Imagine observing the Future You as he or she goes through a typical day. How does the Future You stay connected to God throughout the day?
- What other life-giving, sacred habits has the Future You incorporated into daily life to help him or her grow spiritually?
- Think back to the pattern of behavior, attitude, or habit in your current life that you would like to change. How did the Future You overcome that obstacle?
- What is the most important intentional practice or sacred habit that the Future You would say you must do to get from where you are to where he or she is?

Close out the interview exercise by having group members put down their pens and turn their attention back to you. Then, guide group members to discuss the questions below.

NOTE TO GROUP LEADERS:

In this discussion, it's important that every person respond to each question below. Therefore, if you have more than six people in your group, consider forming two or more "discussion groups" of 3-4 people. Then, guide participants to respond to each question below within their discussion group. You will need to make an extra copy of the following questions for each discussion group.

- What surprised you about this exercise?
- What is the intentional practice or "sacred habit" that you most need to cultivate in your life to become the Future You that you envisioned?
- What would cultivating that sacred habit do for you?
- What practical "next step" are you willing to take toward developing that sacred habit?
- What kind of support or accountability do you need from this group in order to take that next step this week?
- Will you take that "next step" this week?

Encourage Running Partners within the group to volunteer to serve as one another's accountability partners this week as you each take steps toward cultivating new sacred habits in your lives.

CLOSING: Looking Ahead [5 minutes or so]

Distribute the Running Partner Conversation Guide for Week 7. Then say:

You'll be meeting with your Running Partners sometime in the next week or so, and that will be your last Running Partner meeting for this 60-60 Experiment. In preparation for that final Running Partner conversation, I want to point you to a particular assignment in *Soul Revolution* that I want to challenge you to do in the days prior to that meeting.

Have participants turn to pages 205-206 in *Soul Revolution* and read together the section titled "The 60-60 Experiment." After the reading, ask group members if they're willing to take on this challenge over the next week and report to their Running Partners what happens, and who God is leading them to pray for in the coming weeks. Get a show of hands for each person who is willing to take this on.

Also, read chapters 14 thru 15 of *Soul Revolution* before the Running Partner meeting next week.

Close with prayer.

Soul Revolution Running Partner Guide

Week 7 – With Running Partners

Soul Revolution chapters 14 thru 15

RE: CENTER [5 minutes or so]

Read aloud together the “Rules of Running” on page 147 of *Soul Revolution*, and affirm together that you’ll abide by those guidelines in this conversation.

Take a moment to pray together—either silently or aloud—inviting God to guide your conversation and to teach you how to support one another as you go through the 60-60 experience together.

After the prayer, do a brief “check in”: Tell your running partner(s) where you are today on a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being “I’m doing great today!” and 1 being “My life is really hard today”), and the top one or two dominant emotions you are feeling right now. Do not share a lot of detail at this point about why you feel the way you do. Just state how you’re feeling and leave it at that.

RE: FINE [25 minutes or so]

Take one person at a time completely through the following exploration process:

1. What do you think God is trying to do in your life right now?
 - How have you experienced the fruits of the Spirit lately (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, etc. - Galatians 5:22)?
 - How have you treated those you do life with?
 - What sin have you been conscious of this week?
2. If there’s one area you need to focus on, to better love God, love people, build character, or build Christ’s Church, what would it be?
3. What’s one thing you will intentionally do to take steps of growth?
4. Have you said the “last 10%” or have you held back today?

RE: EXAMINE [20 minutes or so]

Last week you were challenged to take on the assignment on pages 205-206 of *Soul Revolution*. Take some time now to share with your partners who you believe God is leading you to pray for and what you sense God is asking you to do to reach out to them.

Pause for moment right now to pray for these people—that God would enter into their life situation in a tangible way.



RE: NEW [15 minutes or so]

Close out your time by having each person respond to one or two of these questions:

- What stood out to you most in the readings for this week?
- What are you taking away from today's conversation that you want to remember as you continue the 60-60 over the next week?
- What's one specific thing your Running Partner(s) can do to support you as you do the 60-60 over the next week?

Close with prayer.

Read chapters 16 thru 18 of *Soul Revolution* before the Running Partner meeting next week.

Soul Revolution Small Group Material

Week 8 – Group Session

Soul Revolution chapters 16 thru 18

THE POINT: God is calling us to join together to be the real-life expression of Jesus in the world.

OPENING: Checking In [15 minutes or so]

Begin by inviting several volunteers to share how the 60-60 experiment is going for them. Ask one or two of these questions to get the conversation started:

- How's the 60-60 been going for you over this past few weeks?
- What are you learning about yourself in this process?
- What are you learning about connecting with God?
- What's been the hardest part for you so far?
- What's been the most encouraging part so far?
- What stood out to you in the reading this week?

Afterward, go around the room and have each person share one fact about themselves that no one in the room knows. Then say:

We all have lots of hidden qualities and experiences that few if any people may ever know about. But as members of Christ's Body we have each been given a unique blend of spiritual gifts from God that were never meant to be hidden. Instead, they were meant to be given away to others. Today we'll explore more about our gifts, and how we can use them to be the real-life expression of Jesus in the world.

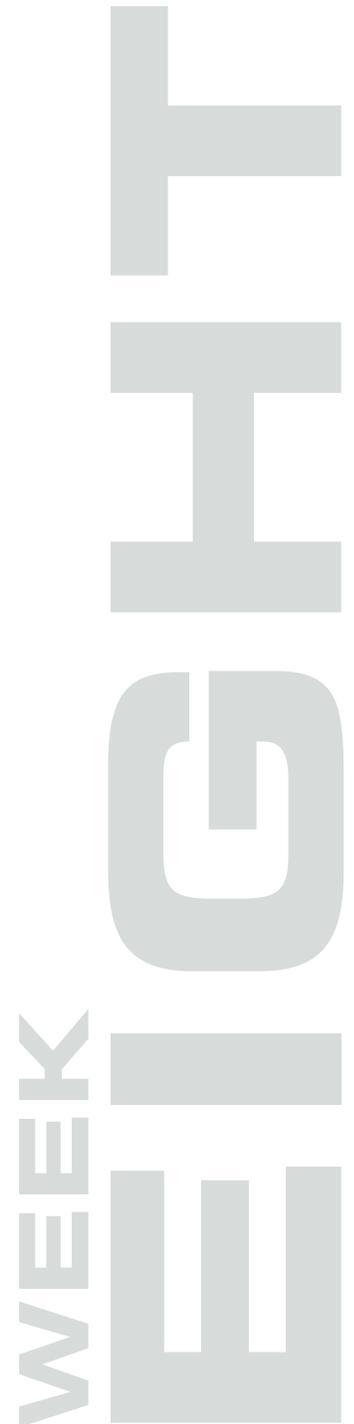
EXPERIENCE: 'The Blessing' [45 minutes or so]

Have your group form a circle, and place a stool or chair in the center of the circle. (If you have more than six people in your small group, you may want to form two separate groups for this experience.)

Say:

This is called 'The Blessing.' Over the course of this experience, each of us will have the opportunity to sit in the center chair of 'The Blessing' for three full minutes. During that time, the rest of the group is going to bless you. We're going to bless you in three ways:

- **We're going to tell you about a quality or talent you have that we admire or appreciate.**
- **We're going to tell you something about you or our relationship**



with you that we're thankful for.

- **We're going to tell you about the gifts we see in you that bring blessing to others.**

While sitting in the center of the circle, your job is simply to receive. You don't need to say anything; in fact, it's better if you don't. Instead, simply look at the people who are talking to you, and listen to what they have to say.

One at a time, have group members sit in the center chair of 'The Blessing' for about three minutes. As each person takes the center seat, invite the other group members to bless him or her according to the instructions you provided. As different people speak, encourage the center person to turn and face whoever is talking. Also, as the leader, notice any "lulls" in the blessing time, and be ready to step in with a blessing or word of encouragement for each person on the "hot seat." Be sure to take your own turn in the center seat!

Once everyone has had a turn in the center, ask:

- What's your reaction to this experience?
- What was powerful about it?
- What was risky about it?
- How did we serve each other through this experience?
- What did you learn about yourself or your impact on others through this experience?
- How could you apply what you've done here to your daily life?

Say:

God has powerfully gifted you to serve as a real-life expression of Jesus in the world. But everyone's gifting is unique. It's great for us to serve and bless others in any way we can in our daily lives. But we are most powerful when we come together as a community of faith—just like we did tonight—to reach out and bless others in the Name and power of Christ. No wonder the Bible describes the church as a Body—having many diverse parts that all work together for God's highest good. Let's explore together how we as the Body of Christ can serve as the real-life expression of Jesus in the world.

BIBLE STUDY: Be the Body [20 minutes or so]

Form three groups, and assign each group one of the following passages:

- Romans 12:1-21
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-27
- Ephesians 4:11-16

Say:

Read your assigned passage together with your group. Then, based on your assigned passage, work with your group to come up with your best solution to these two questions:

- How can we be the Body of Christ with each other in this group?
- How can we as a group be the Body of Christ to our world?

When groups are ready, have them take turns reading aloud their assigned passage and sharing their answers with the rest of the group. Thank each group for its insights, then say:

Once we understand that God has uniquely gifted each of us to be the real-life expression of Jesus in the world, it becomes really important for us stay connected to God and respond with a willing heart whenever He prompts us to serve those He brings across our path. In fact, for our closing tonight, I'd like to challenge us to explore how we want to continue to stay connected with God and respond to His leading in the weeks and months ahead.

CLOSING: 60-60 Next Steps [10 minutes or so]

Say:

Over the last 60 Days, we've been participating in an experiment to see what it's really like to try to connect with God and follow His lead in a deeper way in our lives. Many lives have been changed profoundly by this experience. For others, even though the experience has been good, it's not been easy. But now we're coming to the end of the experiment, and we're faced with the questions, "What now? What's the next step? Where do we want to go from here?"

To help us wrestle with this issue, I want to toss out some options for us to consider as a group. Let's discuss each of these for a few minutes and decide together how we might want to continue this journey together of doing life with God 60-60.

Present the following options, one at a time, and invite the group to express its interest and thoughts on each one. As you facilitate the conversation, look for points of consensus that will help you discern your next step:

- Have each person find two or three other people and go through Soul Revolution with them, using the Soul Revolution Running Partner Guides as a guide.
- Design together a service project you can do locally, as a group, to further explore what it means to be a real-life expression of Jesus in the world.
- Do a biblical study on God's heart for us to listen and have "ears to hear" His leading in our lives.
- Something else?

NOTE: Check www.soulrevolution.net for more “next step” ideas for your group!

Work together to come to agreement about what your group's next step will be. How will you continue the 60-60 lifestyle moving forward?

When the plans are set, gather everyone in a circle. Thank them for being a part of this journey, and tell them you're looking forward to the journey ahead. Then close your time together by reading aloud this paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 12: 12-14 taken from The Message:

“By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive. I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less.”

Dismiss the group.