

A Guide for Huddles



Our mission as a Church is to awaken people to Christ and His message and equip them to live faith in real life. One way we do this at Red is through Huddles. Huddles are a group of four people of the same sex who meet together regularly to go deeper. In a Huddle we gather around God's word, pray together and listen to and encourage one another to live out what it is the Holy Spirit is doing in and through each of us.

This booklet provides a simple way of bringing flow and direction in your time together as a Huddle. By using the acronym, **HUDDLE**, we have highlighted key principles that will help you get the most out of your time together.

BEFORE YOU GET GOING

Designate one person to lead your time together. Take turns doing this each time you meet.

Remain self-aware of the amount of time you spend speaking. Practice listening by asking questions.

Remain centred around these core values:

Abide with Jesus

Be renewed by Jesus

Go with Jesus

Home

HUDDLE

—in the Fathers love.

Home, while being a physical place, is also the inner most longing of our souls. We experience home here on earth in God's presence and the presence of other believers.

+
We must fly to our beloved
homeland.
There the Father is, and
there is everything.

—*St Augustine (5th century AD)*

+
He who dwells in the shelter
of the Most High will rest in
the shadow of the Almighty

—*Psalms 91:1*

+
Jesus replied, "Anyone
who loves me will obey my
teaching. My Father will love
them, and we will come to
them and make our home
with them.

—*John 14:23*

Practice

5 MINS

Take a couple minutes to pause and clear your mind and let go of what may be filling your heart and mind. Allow God to remind you that you are at home in Him and His immense love for you. He doesn't need anything else from you right now – just your stillness.

Usher

HUDDLE

—ourselves into
the presence of God.

God is never far; in fact, He is closer than we'll ever know. God always beckons us into His presence. In his presence we find all we need. Joy, rest, refuge, answers, empowerment. Let us enter His presence with praise and thanksgiving.

+
Come, Holy Spirit.

– *Rabanus Maurus,
Frankish Monk (9th century AD)*

+
Where two or three are
gathered in my name, there
am I among them.

– *Matthew 18:20*

+
Enter his gates with
thanksgiving and his courts
with praise; give thanks to
him and praise his name.

– *Psalms 100:4*

Practice

5–10 MINS

Read a Psalm over the group. Take a moment to reflect on it before praying and asking for God to fill you with His Holy Spirit as you enter His presence.

TIP

Before you read, pray the ancient prayer: 'Come, Holy Spirit'

Use one of these Psalms:

+ *Psalm 27*

+ *Psalm 30*

+ *Psalm 100*

+ *Psalm 119:33-40, 41-48*

Dig

HUDDLE

—into God’s Word.

To read the Bible well means we choose to align our minds and hearts with the authority of God’s truth. We must approach it for transformation, not purely information.

+
As we open and read the bible, we find a narrative and wisdom that is true for all, because the source of this truth is a God who is the same for all.

– *Greg Ogden*

+
Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

– *Psalm 119:105*

+
The words of the wise prod us to live well. They’re like nails hammered home, holding life together. They are given by God, the one Shepherd. But regarding anything beyond this, dear friend, go easy. There’s no end to the publishing of books, and constant study wears you out so you’re no good for anything else. The last and final word is this: Fear God. Do what he tells you.

– *Ecclesiastes 12:11-13 (MSG)*

Practice

20–30 MINS

Our suggestion is to begin with the sermon reflections (redchurch.org.au/discipleship). Otherwise, you may like to work through a book of the Bible using a commentary.

TIP

Use these three questions when reading the Bible:

- + *What does this say about God?*
- + *What does this say about us?*
- + *What is God saying to you?*

With so many resources available, please prayerfully consider what you dig into. Feel free to speak with us for recommendations.

Discern

HUDDLE

— what God is saying through Scripture.

Believing that God wants to speak into our lives through His Word means we must discern and heed what He is drawing out. This may be the key to unlock His work in us.

+ Discernment is first of all a habit, a way of seeing that eventually permeates our whole life. It is the journey from spiritual blindness (not seeing God anywhere or seeing him only where we expect to see him) to spiritual sight (finding God everywhere, especially where we least expect it).

— Ruth Haley Barton

+ For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

— Hebrews 4:12

Practice

10–15 MINS

Has something stuck out to you?
Spend some time reflecting and sharing what you've read.

TIP

Remember to ask each other good questions rather than fill the gaps with your own experiences and opinions.

Silence is okay. Silence often gives us the opportunity to hear God.

Listen

HUDDLE

—and pray.

Listening to God and praying is to position yourself, each other and our world in the presence of God with open hearts and ears to His way.

+ Prayerful listening [is where] we remain quiet enough to listen to the prayer of the Holy Spirit that is already being prayed for that person before the throne of grace. We can ask God to give us some sense of what the Holy Spirit is already praying so we can participate in that prayer in whatever way God leads.

— Ruth Hayley Barton

+ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

— Romans 8:26

Practice

10–20 MINS

Spend time in conversation with God together. Begin by asking Him what He wants to say. Listen and see if there is a picture, a verse or a word of encouragement to share.

Pray for each person individually, laying hands on them, listening to the Spirit and joining that prayer.

TIP

You may choose to spend some time in quiet reflection and prayer and then pray together

Begin where you feel comfortable. Your Huddle can be a space and opportunity to grow in prayer.

If a need has been shared, avoid the habit of simply repeating it back to God. Instead pause and see how He may be wanting to speak His truth through you.

If you find the Holy Spirit convicting and challenging areas of sin in your life. That's okay, in fact it's very good – God wants to set us free from any guilt, shame or condemnation in our lives. If you feel comfortable, share this with your Huddle.

Everyday

HUDDLE

—life is where we live
out Jesus' call.

God has created you for 'such a time as this'. Where you live, the people in your life, your gifts are all opportunities to live out Jesus' alternative for the world with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

+
To awaken people to Christ and His message and equip them to live faith in real life.

– *Red Church vision statement*

+
And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

– *2 John 1:6*

Practice

10 MINS

Considering what has been shared during your time together, and ask these questions:

- + What has God spoken to me through His Word and His Spirit?
- + How will I be obedient to what He has spoken?
- + What will I ask my Huddle to keep me accountable for when we meet next?
- + Who has God placed in my life to encourage and be praying for? (*e.g. Huddle, family, friends, workmate, neighbour, school parent*)



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