



HIGHER CALL HUDDLES

Creating Community Around Your Faith & Business

WHAT IS A HIGHER CALL HUDDLE AND WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- A Higher Call Huddle is a small group of men or women who gather to build community around their faith and businesses
- It is an opportunity to connect with others in the marketplace who are pursuing excellence, integrity & faith in their businesses.
- It provides a small, trusted community of other business leaders who can build up one another in both faith and business.
- It creates a safe place to share and process professional challenges as well as personal struggles.
- It develops a group of people to travel together and pray together on the journey of faith and business.

HOW DO YOU START A HIGHER CALL HUDDLE?

- Identify and enlist a handful of business leaders and professionals from within your network or industry who share a common faith and a desire for excellence in their business. The ideal group size is 4 to 6.
- Select a time, place and frequency to meet. It could be once or twice a month or it could be once a week.
- Use the Higher Call Huddles Discussion Guide for your “Start-up” meetings.
- After your initial meetings, determine your group’s plan going forward. You may decide to meet with no agenda besides non-scripted sharing and prayer, or perhaps select a book to read and discuss. Higher Call will provide recommendations if requested.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

There is an old African Proverb that says . . .

**If you want to go fast, go alone;
If you want to go far, go together.**

In the wise words of Proverbs 27:17, “As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.” (NLT) Collective and godly wisdom is gathered by rubbing shoulders with others who share your faith and an experiential understanding of your business.

WE NEED A COMMUNITY WHERE:

- Our faith is treasured and shared
- Our work is valued and understood
- We can raise questions and doubts and express hopes and dreams . . . and fears
- We can seek others’ counsel and advice
- We can find encouragement and refreshment

START UP MEETINGS DISCUSSION GUIDE

MEETING ONE

Tip: Set a timer to end discussion 10-15 minutes before your “hard stop” to allow time to pray together.

The objective of the first meeting is to begin getting to know each other and developing a rhythm of open and encouraging communication and prayer.

Begin your meeting by agreeing on your ending time, then invite someone to open with a simple prayer for God to guide your conversation.

Next, read these five commitments, and ask each person to confirm their agreement:

- **I commit to be honest with the group in everything that I share.**
- **I commit to keep all information confidential that is shared within this group.**
- **I commit to pursue authentic spiritual growth as a Christ follower and business leader.**
- **I commit to remain open and teachable, knowing there are many things I can learn from others.**
- **I commit to seek to be respectful and helpful, not judgmental or discouraging to others.**

1. Have each person share why they need or desire to join a Huddle and answer “What are you hoping to gain from this group experience?”
2. From a business perspective, what is working well in your business and what are your current “pinch points”?
3. From a spiritual perspective, how are you encouraged by God’s presence in your life and business? And describe areas you need a greater sense of His involvement in them?

MEETING TWO - MEETING SIX

(NUMBER IS BASED ON HOW MANY ARE IN YOUR GROUP)

Tip: Set a timer to end sharing 5-10 minutes before your “hard stop” to allow time to pray for the person sharing today.

The objective of the next few meetings is to cultivate open and authentic sharing by challenging each group member to lean into each other’s life story.

Before each meeting, ask someone to take a turn sharing about themselves personally, spiritually and professionally. The group facilitator might want to be first in order to model how to make this meeting about listening and learning followed by affirmation and encouragement.

It’s okay to share these questions with the person who will be interviewed next, and they will help keep your sharing time on track:

- 1. What are some of the major spiritual landmarks or events that have shaped your life up until now?**
- 2. Looking back over your life, how have you come to recognize God’s redemptive activity in both prosperity and adversity?**
- 3. As you reflect on your professional journey, in what specific ways do you recognize God’s fingerprints and purposes for you?**
- 4. In what ways do you desire to see God reveal Himself or work in you as you move forward both personally and professionally?**

Before the final question, allow the Huddle to ask any follow-up or clarifying questions about what was shared.

- 5. As we move forward, what is an area of spiritual growth and an area of professional growth that you are praying for, and that WE can pray with you about.**

Close by inviting the members of the Huddle to pray for the person who shared that day.

[REPEAT THIS MEETING FORMAT UNTIL EACH MEMBER HAS SHARED]

MEETING SIX (OR SEVEN)

Tip: Set a timer to end discussion 10-15 minutes before your “hard stop” to allow time to pray together.

The objective of this meeting is to determine if your Huddle will continue meeting, how frequently, for what duration, and with what purposes.

Begin your meeting by inviting someone to open with a simple prayer for God to guide your conversation.

Here are a few options for the group to discuss:

1. Agree to get together over a meal or coffee (or even by Zoom) without a set agenda. Use the time to catch up with each other about what is happening in your lives and businesses and spend some time sharing prayer requests (and actually praying for each other).
2. Agree on a faith-based book that everyone will read and discuss. Use a portion of your meetings to discuss the assigned chapter(s). Allow time for each person to update the Huddle about spiritual and professional experiences. Spend some time praying for each other at the end of each meeting (agree on how to make the most of this time).
3. Agree on a book in the Bible that everyone will read and discuss. You may choose to use a “companion” book like the *God’s Word for You* series (e.g. *Nehemiah for You*, *Proverbs for You*). Use a portion of your meeting times to discuss everyone’s recorded insights and questions and applications. Allow time for each person to update the Huddle about spiritual and professional experiences. Spend some time praying for each other at the end of each meeting (agree on how to make the most of this time).

Open the floor for feedback and other ideas. A decision can be made on the spot (perhaps by jotting choices anonymously), or agree to consider and pray before taking a group vote by an agreed time.

Communicate the next action steps, share prayer requests and close your time together by praying for the person you are sitting next to.

[Some individuals decide to opt out of the group—if so, please affirm their decision and your desire to continue in relationship and fellowship. The group can decide about if and when to incorporate a new person into the Huddle].