

Intentional Living: Leading Your Own Roundtable Group

“Partnering with a community of like-valued people will help you multiply the dream you have of making a difference.” – John C. Maxwell

Talk about what happened when you shared your story with others. Who did you tell, and what reaction did they have?

INSIGHT

Directions: Take turns reading the paragraphs below. As you read, underline the ideas that capture your attention. Click [here](#) to watch the video for this lesson.

In his book *Intentional Living*, John C. Maxwell writes that one of the most powerful ways to make a difference in the world around you is to partner with like-valued people. Over the past several weeks, you’ve been involved in such a partnership. Together with your facilitator and fellow participants, you have been learning valuable success principles, making changes to your life, and learning how to make a difference.

Now it’s your turn to take a tangible step of significance. You can begin immediately adding value to others by recruiting people to become part of a roundtable group that you facilitate.

In this week’s session, we will examine how roundtables work, and you will learn the basics of becoming a facilitator of roundtables that teach success principles and intentional living. This will prepare you to lead your own roundtable.

The Key to Leading Roundtables About Keys to Success

What do you think makes a roundtable about success principles work? The answer is *transparency*. When people are honest and open about themselves—and especially about their shortcomings and mistakes—other people in the group are positioned to grow.

Who sets the tone for transparency? The facilitator! If the leader of the group is open and honest, everyone else in the group is free to be him or herself. If the leader highlights only their strengths or pretends to be without faults and challenges, then the people in the group will not be honest and will not grow.

John C. Maxwell teaches that leaders go first. That’s true in a roundtable. As the leader, you will need to open up first and talk about where you need to grow. Then you will need to ask everyone to talk and participate in the roundtable. If you do that, there is a very good chance that everyone will grow. And that is the measure of a successful roundtable.

The Key to Leading Roundtables About Intentional Living

What is the key to a roundtable about intentional living? The answer is *commitment to taking action*. When you lead this kind of roundtable, your goal is to encourage participants to commit to putting what they learn into action.

John C. Maxwell says that growth equals change. If you want to grow, you must change. No one can refuse to change and have a better life. That's impossible. As the leader, you must commit to take action and change. And you must encourage or even challenge others to commit themselves to living with intentionality.

The Key to Becoming a Good Roundtable Facilitator

If the idea of being a facilitator of a roundtable group seems challenging to you, just remember that you already know what one looks like. And you have already participated in a roundtable and answered all of the questions that will be asked. The main difference is that now it will be your turn to answer first. You will also get a chance to make people feel welcome, encourage them, and add value to them.

Here are a few ideas to keep in mind as you prepare to start your own group:

- 1. Set Expectations Before You Start.** John C. Maxwell often says, "Disappointment is the gap between expectations and reality." Let people know what to expect in the coming twelve weeks.
- 2. Put Your Focus on Others Every Time You Meet.** A good roundtable is not about you. It's about the other people in the group. Value them. Care about who they are. Listen to what they have to say. Be their friend, not their teacher.
- 3. Remember Your Goal Every Time You Meet.** The purpose of every roundtable meeting is for people to take action. If people discover for themselves where they need to change, create a specific action plan for themselves, and are held accountable the next week, they will grow.

Leading a roundtable is a great place to start adding value to others and making a difference. And it may also help you learn more about your purpose.

John C. Maxwell quotes a study of people nearing the ends of their lives who were asked what they might have done differently. Most of them said they wished they had taken more risks. When people experience regret, it usually doesn't come from trying something new and failing. It usually comes from never having tried. Don't allow the opportunity for making a difference to pass you by. Take a step into significance by leading a roundtable.

REFLECT AND RESPOND

Choose something you underlined that is important to you. Take one minute to tell everyone what you chose and why it is important to you.

ANSWER THIS QUESTION

Take one or two minutes to share your response to this question:

What excites you most about the idea of leading a roundtable group, and what challenges you the most?

INTENTIONAL ACTION STEP

Decide whether to commit to leading your own group. If you do, then take the following steps this week:

1. Make a list of people – friends, colleagues, family members, etc. – who you might want to invite to your group.

2. Choose the four to ten people that you want to invite to your group.
3. Choose the location, time and starting date for your group.
4. Tell your story to the people you've chosen and personally invite them to your group.
5. Lead your first group and continue meeting for twelve weeks.

Take a minute to share with the group your decision about whether you will recruit and facilitate a new roundtable group.

New Roundtable Group Worksheet

Who Would You Like to Invite?

Think about the different relationships in your life: friends, family, co-workers, community members, etc. Begin listing the names of people in every area below. This is your starting list. Plan to invite anywhere from four to ten people to be part of your roundtable group.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Where and When Would You Like to Meet?

Think of possible locations, days, and times that would be suitable for you and your group to meet. The setting should be convenient and quiet. Write them below. Before inviting group members, make sure you will be able to use that location at that time.

Location	Day	Time
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What Date Would You Like to Start?

You should try to start your group as soon as you can, while you have energy and enthusiasm. However, you need to take into consideration how much time it will take to secure your location and invite your group members. Set a date, and use it as a deadline to help you follow through. Ideally, your group should begin within one to three weeks from today.

If you desire to lead a roundtable, you can download the materials at JMRoundtables.com/Facilitator.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE INTENTIONAL LIVING ROUNDTABLES

The roundtables that teach intentional living follow a very similar format:

Action Step from Previous Week: Each session will begin with an opportunity for people to share what action step they committed to during the previous session and to tell what resulted.

Insight: Participants will take turns reading paragraphs from this section aloud and will be encouraged to underline key thoughts and ideas that capture their attention. However, the Intentional Living roundtables will not include Benefits and Steps to Follow.

Reflect and Respond: Each participant will again be asked to share something they underlined in the lesson and why it was important to them.

Discussion Question: Participants will be asked to answer one question related to the lesson.

Intentional Action Step: Participants will be encouraged to follow through with an intentional action based on the lesson, and they will be given an opportunity to share with the group the specific action they intend to take.

At the end of the twelve weeks of roundtable sessions, every participant who desires to lead roundtables of their own will be given the opportunity to recruit a group and become a facilitator.

We believe you will experience tremendous growth during this process. Your family, friends, and colleagues will see positive change in you. And you will begin to receive great opportunities to add value to others and make a difference in your own life, in your community, and your world.