

WEEKEND DETAILS

EXPECTATION: The speaker (s) may use notes but be familiar with the content so as not to rely on notes. Weekend Leader, Assistant Leader and Staff Coordinator share pieces of this talk.

PURPOSE: to inform about ministry, to recommit to confidentiality, to honor the Staff

ENERGY: upbeat and informational

ALLOTTED TIME: 20 minutes

MATERIALS: Tea bags with scripture or quote attached to it and Folders

PREP:

- Divide the sections between the Weekend Leader, Assistant Weekend Leader, and Staff Coordinator
- Identify Staff who can give testimony for Staffing, RGroups, and CATC

HOW TO SHARE ABOUT THE WEEKEND [Follow the example below]

“Women at the Cross is an intensive women’s experience where we look at what it means to live as women at the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ. The weekend endeavors to help us as women identify how we might be creating barriers to be the women that God has called us to be – in our families, with our friends and in the world.

There are brief times of teaching and times spent in small groups and opportunities to take a look at our own hearts before God and others. It’s a time to receive strong support from women and to support one another. (Share about the teachings if you like.) We talked about how we live falsely and we took a look at what might be covered up in our lives and had opportunities to come to God with important issues in our lives.”

An idea of how to share your story:

“I personally experienced an encounter with God’s love and acceptance that has impacted me greatly. It has freed me to be more open and honest with my family and friends. I have experienced more freedom in my relationship with God in ways that I had not known before. I discovered that I was carrying around things in my life that I was not aware of, things that hindered me from being the woman God has made me to be. And, for the things that I was aware of I discovered that God was always there for me to help me overcome difficult areas in my life. The support I received from other women was great. I was really blessed. It was great for me. Maybe it would be a good thing for you. Why don’t you check it out?”

If you give the information above, most people will be satisfied.

Things NOT to say: *“It’s a secret.” “I can’t tell you about the weekend.”*

Specifically, we ask that you not share the details of the weekend, that is, the specific processes that we do on the weekend. (For example, how we greet you, the Fear Exercise, the Anger Exercise, Rock Work, Shame, Broken and Beloved, etc.)

Why is it important to NOT share the details? **[Ask them.]**

What happens when someone shares about the details? **[Ask them.]** (EX: a woman won't come, it doesn't make sense out of context, it would diminish the experience of the women who attend.)

We cannot stop you from sharing the details, but out of respect for the weekend and those who will come in the future we ask you to not share the details. We are aware that there are very few rituals or rites of passage that we have in western culture. In other cultures, it is common for women to have ritual experiences that are not revealed in order to hold sacred and special the experiences for those who follow. *Would you do that with us?*

Feel free to talk with any man or woman who has ALREADY been through Men or Women at the Cross about the processes and your experiences at WATC.

We encourage you to refer people to the Frequently Asked Questions page on the website.

Any Questions?

RECOMMIT TO CONFIDENTIALITY

Explain again what we mean by confidentiality. Then, then have all the women raise their right hand and all together state, *"I agree."*

PRAYER FOR FUTURE ATTENDEES

Have the Attendees and Staff stand and face their chair. Ask the women to close their eyes and envision the woman or women who they would like to invite to fill that chair at the next weekend. **[The goal is to have them think of specific people they would like to invite.]** Be specific with these directions: have them face their chair. Close their eyes. What are the names of the people they want to invite to this weekend? Now we are going to spend a few minutes in silent prayer for these people, asking God to lead them to come. Ask them to pray silently for the men. Close in a prayer for the next weekend and the women who will attend.

Hand out folders and tea bags to the Attendees now.

UPCOMING EVENTS [point out list of events in folder]

- Really push all of the upcoming events for men, women, and couples
- Address differences between MATC and WATC. I.e. Everything is the same except the way we greet them (it is more feminine, warm, and welcoming), the Anger Exercise is a bit different, Broken and Beloved are different (naturally!), but everything else is the same.
- Have one person give a short CATC Testimony

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN THE MINISTRY

1. Donating to the ministry [point out donation form in folder]

When talking about donating to The Cross Ministry Group, say something like this:

“Men at the Cross and Women at the Cross are a part of The Cross Ministry Group which is a non-profit organization that depends on donations in order to do all of the ministry work that we do. If you have been blessed this weekend and have the desire and means we would love for you to consider donating to the ministry either one time or regularly. In your folder is a sheet that describes how to donate. Also, on the back of your evaluation is a space for you to indicate if you are interested in supporting the ministry financially. We always are grateful for your prayers and joining us on our weekends as Staff.”

2. Prayer Team [point out where to indicate if they want to be on prayer team]

- Members of the prayer team commit to pray for the ministry one day each month
- If you indicate you want to pray, we will send you a form to choose which day of the month works best for you.
- You will receive occasional emails if there is an emergent prayer need but will not be inundated with emails.

3. Staffing

- Have all Staff come up front so that everyone can see them.
- Staff says full name, where they live, how many weekends they have staffed
- Tell the Attendees that the women pay to staff
- Have previously assigned staffer give their staffing testimony on how staffing has impacted them personally while the group is still standing up front.
- Encourage the Attendees to sign up to staff the next weekend or check to be on the list for future weekends.
- Invite the Attendees to honor the Staff

WAYS TO CONTINUE THE WEEKEND EXPERIENCE

1. R GROUPS [refer to list in folder]

In your own words, introduce the 8-Week Follow Up Group called an “R Group” which stands for “Redemption Group.”

- The 8 week “R Group” is designed to reinforce the teachings of the weekend and start the process of integrating these teachings you’re your daily lives.
- It is important to anchor your experience on the weekend with follow up.
- A secondary purpose of these groups is to provide a place for authentic fellowship.
- During those 8 weeks we will be addressing the topics we just covered in the previous talk. In the group we will cover how to create sacred space in your life, growing in awareness, taking risks, and being intentional. There is also a Communication Model that we introduce. There will be a manual for you to follow with opportunities to reflect on scripture and put into practice what you are learning.
- There is no additional cost for these groups.
- Let them know that there will be a time in just a moment to sign up for a group.

2. WATC Alumni Facebook Page [point out URL in folder]

We have a Women at the Cross alumni facebook page. We use this page to encourage, support and update with ministry information. The link to this is found at the end of the Summary of the Weekend Notes handout that is in your folder. In case you want to write it down, it is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WATCalumni>

Before giving them time to fill out the evaluations, let them know where R Group leaders will be standing and that after they finish their evaluation, they can go talk with the leader and sign up for the group. Also let them know that Attendees and Staff will be eating lunch together, so please save room for staff at their tables.

GROUP PHOTO

The group photo will be taken before or after lunch. BE SURE TO ASK if anyone would prefer not to be photographed or would prefer their photo not be used in any marketing materials or social media. Take one picture to share with attendees only, then ask those preferring not to be photographed and included in social media to step out of the group and take a second photo. **[Forward these photos to info@crossmg.org.]**

EVALUATIONS

Give the women adequate time to fill out their evaluations. Once all the women are finished, have them bring their evaluations to the front and either head to lunch or head to an R Group leader to put their name on the list.

Staff Coordinator: Hand out and collect staff evals during this time.