



## How to Start a Defenders Men's Accountability Group

A key component of being a Defender is holding your friends accountable. Accountability is essential; whether this is accomplished through accountability groups, phone conversations, emails, coffee meetings, or other means.

This document is meant to demonstrate how to set up a sample Defenders accountability group. It is geared more toward a faith-based men's group, but this model can be used effectively with a secular group as well. This document outlines goals to set, how to accomplish those goals, ground rules, and a weekly meeting sample outline.

Contact the Defenders USA at [www.thedefendersusa.org](http://www.thedefendersusa.org) or email [edwin@sharedhope.org](mailto:edwin@sharedhope.org) if you have further questions about setting up a Defenders accountability group, or if you have additional feedback.

### Defenders Men's Accountability Group

#### Goals:

- Provide accountability to assist in overcoming sexual addiction, temptation, or past experiences
- Restoration the view of myself and others
  - If you want to influence the world have healthy relationships
- Honoring spouse (or future spouse) and other women
  - Loving vs. consuming, defending vs. objectifying
  - Healthy relationship with wife can influence the world
- Encouragement for positive outlets
  - Sexual desire being replace with an appropriate action

#### How to accomplish goals:

- Gathering in authentic community as men on a weekly basis
  - Small groups of 6-8
  - In a guilt free no BS group
  - Striving to encourage healthy relationships between ourselves, each other, others, and Christ.
- Help overcome addictions with awareness of the sex industry

- Draw attention toward what a healthy relationship between opposite genders
- Promote self care
  - Working out, self awareness, wins, and point towards positive aspect/habits in personal life
- Enjoy one another's company

#### Ground rules:

- Positive language
  - Encouraging speech
  - Use positive aspects of life to promote good habits
  - Replace the act of negatively filling a sexual desire/need with a positive outlet
- Avoid fix-it language
  - Have purpose beyond guilt
  - Avoid compounding shame
- No BS
  - If you would say it to a stranger or an elementary school child: don't say it!

#### Weekly Meeting Sample Outline:

- Review ground rules
- Share
  - Review week since last meeting
    - Relationship week
    - Sexual week
  - Struggles
    - When and where
  - Wins
    - When and where
    - Celebrate!
  - Clarifying questions
    - Positive language
    - Self-care - work out, eating right, sleep, etc.
    - What did you do that you enjoyed?
  - Goals
    - Asking the group
    - Setting them yourself
- Prayer in smaller groups.