



Guide to Launching a Prison Journey Group

1. Seek the Lord's Direction

Every Journey Group begins with dependence on God. Spend time in prayer, seek wise counsel from trusted spiritual leaders, and trust the Holy Spirit to open the right doors and lead each step of the journey.

2. Establish a Connection

Connect with a Chaplain

Look for an introduction through:

- Your personal network
- Churches or ministry partners
- Jail administration
- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Community Resources or Volunteer Services

Schedule an Initial Meeting

- Introduce yourself, Influencers, and The Journey (bring a Journey brochure)
- Share a copy of *The Journey to the Inner Chamber*
- Build rapport and establish a relationship
- Schedule a follow-up conversation

3. Prepare to Serve

Identify a Co-Guide

Many correctional facilities require two approved volunteers when staff members are not present to observe meetings.

Complete the Volunteer Process

Expect to complete:

- Background checks
- Volunteer orientation
- Facility-specific training

Follow all institutional rules and security procedures at all times.

4. Plan Your Journey Group

Meeting Schedule

- Work within the facility's approved days and times.
- Expect occasional schedule changes or cancellations.
- Remain flexible.

Group Members

- Recruit participants using Journey brochures or approved flyers.
- Establish a cut-off date for new participants.

Meeting Space

Consider:

- Group size
- Space for private prayer activities
- Tables, chairs, whiteboard, or other approved resources

Food (if permitted)

Food may be:

- Provided by participants
- Purchased through the institution
- Brought in from outside

Any outside items must receive prior approval, which may take several weeks.

5. Provide Journey Materials

Influencers Global Ministries provides a Journey Pack for each participant at no cost.

Please note:

- Request soft-cover materials if hardback books or spiral bindings are prohibited.
- Journals are not included.

Supporting Your Group

If possible, consider purchasing Journey Packs and journals through donations from:

- Regional Directors
- Journey Groups and graduates
- Churches
- Ministry partners

To encourage continued support, consider sharing:

- Participant testimonies (with permission)
- Letters to God, sailboat analogies, or journal excerpts (with permission)
- Thank-you notes
- Invitations to attend Commencement (when approved)

6. Start Small if Needed

Not every facility is ready for a nine-month Journey Group.

Consider beginning with a six-week study using:

- *The Journey to the Inner Chamber* Small Group Study Guide
- *An Orphan No More*

Beginning with a shorter study often builds trust, demonstrates the value of the ministry, and prepares participants for the full Journey process.

7. Additional Resources

Visit **Influencers.org** for additional resources, support, and information about launching Journey Groups.