

BEN FRANKLIN CIRCLE IN A NUTSHELL:

YOUR QUICK GUIDE TO HOLDING A ONE-TIME MEETING

So you want to start a Ben Franklin Circle but are unsure about making the long-term commitment?

We get it; meeting weekly or even monthly can be a challenge. But never fear — you can still hold a one-time Ben Franklin Circle meeting that'll be perfect for your brunch outing, dinner party, classroom or whatever the forum may be.

Here are a few easy steps for creating a fun, inspiring occasion for your group:

1. Pick a virtue and talk about it

- Since you have only one meeting, pick just one of Ben Franklin's [13 core virtues](#) — maybe even a witty one ... like temperance at a cocktail party?
- What does this virtue mean to us?
- How can we understand this virtue in the context of today's world?

2. Make virtue commitments

- How can we live this virtue in our own lives?
- In what concrete ways will we commit to pursuing this virtue?
- What challenges may arise, and how we can prepare for them?

3. The Ben Franklin questions

A set of questions that Franklin and his original club asked one another

- What's something you need help with?
- Is anyone here starting a new project? How can we assist?
- Is there anyone not here who deserves praise?
 - Anyone who's doing innovative work?

4. Bonus question: what's the next big idea?

- Franklin's own club, the Junto, helped conceive of the volunteer fire department, the post office and the lending library so what can your group come up with?
- What could the next big idea for our society be?
- Is there anything we can do to bring it along?

You may be meeting only once, but if you follow this simple structure, we bet the reverberations of your Ben Franklin Circle will last well into the future!