

HOW DO I LEAD A GOOD GROUP DISCUSSION?

Use Questions All the Time

Jesus had every answer he needed to lecture with eloquence and authority yet He lead others to life change by asking them questions. We should aspire to do the same.

Answer Questions with Questions People sometimes like to ask the leader a question because they want an 'expert' opinion. Be willing to ask, 'Why are you asking that question?' 'Where is that coming from?' or 'What do you think?' It lets them work through their own thoughts with you as a guide rather than purely telling them the answer. It is about the group member working through their struggles, not you telling them how to do it.

Direct Questions to People We are not merely here to listen, but to participate. Use discernment and gentleness, but be courageous. If you know that someone has experience with a certain topic being covered, maybe ask them what they think.

Keep Discussions Going with Follow-Up Questions

- What do you mean? Is there anything else? Where does the gospel fit in that answer?
- Where does God fit in their story or thoughts? Is that about you or someone else?
- What does that have to do with you?

Focus the Discussion As the Group leader, you need to have the courage to lead the discussion and the confidence to interject and interrupt when the group wanders. When we discuss a topic but the group begins to wander in another direction, use some sort of phrase like, "What we're discussing is interesting, but we've left our topic" or "Where is that in the scriptures?" then immediately ask another question in line with the original trajectory.

Encourage Others in The Group Look for ways to encourage people when you see God's grace in their lives. Encourage your group when you see them practicing confession, repentance, and faith. You will probably have to be the one who leads out in this practice, but if you lead they will follow.