

Communication and Discussion

SET GOALS AND CLEAR COMMUNICATION - Set a distinct goal for each group meeting. Steer the discussion and help your Group land at an appropriate goal that challenges them to grow with each meeting. Make sure to communicate and that everyone is aware of what is expected before the next group (reading material, prayer points, quiet time, etc)

LANDING POINT - Recap what you talked about during your last meeting and connect it to what you're discussing during your current meeting. Find a good landing point. If you've done a good job setting the tone, being clear with your group, and steering the discussion toward your goals, your group should naturally land on a solid ending point.

FACILITATE DYNAMIC DISCUSSION - The discussion portion of the group can at times feel awkward. Most people will be hesitant to share at first, but this DOES get better! The important thing is that we are intentional about moving the conversation forward and giving everyone an opportunity to weigh in.

BE PREPARED TO TALK - In any group setting, talking is contagious. Silence is also contagious. Create some momentum for your group, and keep it moving in the right direction. As the host of your group, you will have to do some talking, however DON'T dominate the conversation. This is a strong temptation, especially if you have a quiet group. Find the balance in talking too much and embracing the growing pains of silence. Sometimes allowing for a moment of silence is allowing the Spirit to move.

KEEP IT OPEN-ENDED - Stay away from "Yes" or "No" questions. Push your group to dig past the surface by asking, "Why or why not?" Or, "What makes you feel that way?" Or, "How would you respond to that?"

FOLLOW THE 3 B'S - Tell your Group members to keep their answers brief, biblical, and beneficial. This will keep your group on track, give the talkative person a limit, and give the quiet person confidence in their brevity. If someone is dominating the conversation, politely redirect back to another person - "Susan, that is such great input; Jan, what is your take?"

Remember: Groups are not the place for a political or even theological debate.