



## Connect Leaders Guide

1. **Pray** before you begin.
2. Go through the **discipleship** covenant.
3. Go around the room and get everyone to **share** how their week has been. If someone gave an update the week before that needs a follow up, ensure to do that too.
4. **Listen** to their reflections and revelations and ensure that it's Biblically sound.
5. If a member shares something heavy or controversial, thank them for their honesty first. If a correction is needed, do it with "grace and truth." Avoid shaming; instead, **steer the conversation** back to what the Word of God says about the situation. If you feel as though they may need prayer right away, stop the lesson to pray and then carry on.
6. When answering the final application question, ensure that members' answers reflect an **understanding** of the lesson and are realistic, achievable within a week. If it's not, guide them until it is.
7. **Practice the "80/20 Rule:** Aim to listen 80% of the time and speak only 20%. Your role is to facilitate the conversation, not to give a second sermon. If a leader talks too much, the members may become passive observers rather than active participants.
8. If one person is dominating the conversation, **gently redirect** by saying, "That's a great perspective, [Name]. Does anyone have anything to add to that? What about [Name]? We haven't heard from you yet ." This ensures **every voice** in the group is valued.
9. **Close with Specific Prayer:** Instead of a general "bless everyone" prayer, try to pray specifically for the application points shared during the session. If someone shared a specific struggle during the week's update, ensure that is included as well..
10. "Connect" doesn't end when the meeting does. Send a mid-week **follow-up** to the group chat or to individuals, reminding them of their application for the week and do checkins with them. Connect is about doing life together.