

TIPS FOR LEADING A GROUP DISCUSSION

Leading a meaningful group discussion is less about having all the right answers and more about creating an environment where people feel safe, known, and encouraged to grow.

CULTIVATE DISCUSSION

It's the ideas of everyone in the group that make a small group meeting successful. Your role is to create an environment where people feel safe sharing their thoughts. That's how relationships grow and thrive among group members.

Spiritual growth in community happens most effectively through meaningful relationships. The more authentic the relationships, the more impactful the study becomes.

POINT TO THE MATERIAL

A good leader creates an environment where people can connect relationally. Sometimes the discussion flows naturally after simply reading a question. Other times, you may need to encourage participation and help guide the conversation.

Remember: some of the best insights will come from the people in your group.

DEPART FROM THE MATERIAL

Discussion materials provide a framework, but every group is different. Knowing when to move beyond the planned material is part of effective leadership.

Sometimes the best way to begin discussion is simply asking: *"Does anyone have a personal insight you'd like to share from this week's material?"*

STAY ON TRACK

There's an art to facilitating engaging conversation. While you want to leave space for people to process and share, you also want to keep the group focused on the purpose of the discussion.

Gently redirect conversations when necessary so the group continues moving toward growth and connection.

PRAY

Prayer is one of the most important things you can do as a leader. The best leaders create space for God to work through them and through the group.

Pray for your members, your leadership, and for God to guide your conversations and relationships.

Healthy discussions create deeper relationships, stronger faith, and lasting community.