

Small Group FAQ's

(Frequently Asked Questions)

Troubleshooting Discussion Time

How do I cope with a constant talker?

- Ask, “What does someone else think?”
- Use body language to address other people.
- Direct questions to other people by name, “Jim, what do you think about...?”
- Talk privately with the person and ask them to help you get others involved.

What about when some people never talk?

- Ask easier questions.
- Direct easy questions their way.
- Enlist the help of your apprentice or other members to draw them out.
- Express appreciation (both publicly and privately) for the contributions they make.

What if the group is not interested in the topic?

- Play “Devil’s Advocate” (take the opposition and make them defend what they believe).
- Ask “Why?” questions.
- Drop the topic and find what interests them.

What if a group member reaches an obviously wrong conclusion?

- Ask, “What does anyone else think?”
- Redirect their attention to the Scripture which leads to a correct conclusion.
- Speak with them one-on-one if the wrong conclusion is still held.

What if the group drifts into irrelevant tangents?

- Be flexible; sometimes the issues need to be discussed even though they are not scheduled.
- Bring the discussion back on topic
- Agree to discuss the topic at a later date.

What if a difficult question is raised?

- Don’t be afraid to say, “I don’t know.”
- Agree to research the question and bring the answer back next week.

What if a controversial question is raised?

- Set ground rules before discussion begins.
 - Scripture must substantiate all viewpoints.
 - Acknowledge that Christians hold different views on a variety of topics.
 - Unity on the essentials, liberty on non-essentials.
- Acknowledge that there is a room for a difference of opinion on non-essentials.
- Focus what the different opinions have in common.