

# SMALL GROUPS



## Troubleshooting Group Discussion Issues

### Constant talkers

- Ask, “What does someone else think?”
- Use body language to address other people.
- Direct questions to others by name.
- Talk privately with the person and ask them to help involve others in the conversation.

### People who never talk

- Ask easier questions.
- Direct easier questions their way (icebreakers).
- Enlist the help of other group members to draw them out.
- Express appreciation (publically and privately) for the contributions they make.

### The group is not engaging in discussion

- Play “Devil’s Advocate.”
- Ask questions that require more than a simple “yes/no” answer. “What do you think...,” “Why do you think...,” and “How do you feel about...” are good ways to phrase questions.

### Group member reaches an obviously wrong conclusion

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

### Group conversation drifts into irrelevant tangents

- Be flexible; sometimes issues need discussed regardless of whether they are scheduled.
- Explicitly bring the discussion back on topic. Say something like “let’s refocus back to...”
- Agree to table the discussion and come back to it at a later time.

### A difficult question is raised

- Don’t be afraid to say “I don’t know.”
- Agree to do some research and come to your next meeting with an answer.

### A controversial question is raised

- Set ground rules for your group before discussion begins.
- Acknowledge that Christians hold different views on some topics.
- Scripture must substantiate all viewpoints.
- Acknowledge that your group won’t settle this question for all Christians in this discussion.
- Focus on what divergent opinions have in common.