

PRINCIPLES AND GOALS FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSIONS

Small Group Discussion Questions

Part I

1. How would you describe your level of satisfaction with the way you have been able to lead small groups in the past?
2. How successful are you at speaking only 10-20% of the time in your small groups?
3. If that is not your strong point, what are some practical ideas to help you (and others like you) speak less?
4. According to the lecture, a good teacher is not measured by how much the teacher knows but by how much the students learn. How do you think your students would rate you as a teacher?
5. Many facilitators feel that if they are asked a question they must give an answer, otherwise they will look bad in front of their students and the course will lose respect. How can you keep from falling into that trap?
6. It is not always easy to do a good job of summarizing students' answers. What can you do to improve your skills in that area?
7. How can you tell if you need to rephrase a question?
8. How can you tell how many times you need to rephrase a question?
9. Your job is to keep people talking. If someone gives a poor or wrong answer to a question, how can you deal with it in such a way that he won't feel bad or discouraged about being a part of the discussion?
10. How can controversy be a positive influence on your discussion?
11. What will happen in your group if you don't help a quiet person participate?
12. What will happen in your group if you don't restrain a talkative person?
13. How will you know whether or not a tangent is inappropriate?
14. One of the hardest things to do in a small group is keep it focused. Why is that so important?
15. How can you help everyone stay focused?
16. How can you tell the difference between a good silence and a bad silence?
17. A very common mistake is to not allow enough time for good silence. How can you tell if you've waited long enough?

Part II

18. Your responsibility is about more than leading a lesson; it is about making people spiritually successful. What is the difference?
19. What practical ideas do you have that would help you develop intimate fellowship in your group?
20. What practical ideas do you have that would provide opportunities for spiritual growth for your group?
21. What practical ideas do you have that would provide an environment for your group where they principles of Scripture could be visibly practiced?
23. What practical ideas do you have that would help people in your group have a meaningful time of prayer?
24. What can you do to assist individuals in your group to discover and develop their gifts?
25. What can you do to encourage your group to have a lifestyle pleasing to God?
26. How is it possible for your group to reach out to people other than its members and still not be distracted from the group's purpose?
27. What can you do during the planning phase to achieve the goal of making your lesson focused?

28. What can you do during the execution phase to achieve the goal of making your lesson focused?
29. Of the seven (eight) goals for a small group, which do you think is the most important and why?
30. Why do questions make such a big difference to small groups?
31. How do you make people successful by asking them questions?
32. Why does a person who has been leading a group for the first time need you to spend time with him asking him questions?
33. How do you make his group successful by asking him questions?
34. If there are still issues you have questions about, please raise them now.