
GUIDELINES FOR LEADERS

Leading a Life Group discussion can be a very rewarding and even an enjoyable experience. But it can also be very intimidating—especially if you have never done it before. If this is how you feel, you are in good company

Remember when God asked Moses to lead Israel out of Egyptian captivity? He said to God, “O Lord, please send someone else to do it.” But God gave Moses all the help he needed (both human and divine).

Here are some guidelines that I hope will help you as you prepare to lead your group through this study on prayer.

1. As you study and reflect on what you want to say to your group, spend time in prayer asking God to help you to understand what he wants you to share and to help you to know how to best lead others. Pray that God will touch the hearts of the people in your group so that they will respond to the message
2. Be prepared to be transparent as you share your “story” with others in the group. This will encourage transparency in others.
3. Read and re-read the assigned passages for the week so that you are totally familiar with them. You might even want to find supporting passages that will help you in your presentation of the lesson.
4. Don’t rush your group. If one of the questions in the study guide for the week really catches the interest of the group then spend enough time to allow your group to fully discuss it. Try to keep them within the topic for the week but allow wide-ranging discussion.
5. Think of your own questions. This is only a guide. Personalize the lesson and the questions by making them your own.
6. Don’t be afraid to allow your group to take you down some unexpected paths of discussion. As long as it somewhat relates to your topic for the week then let them go for it! From time to time you might just need to disregard the lesson for this week because of some current topic that needs to be discussed.

7. Try your best to get as many of your members as possible involved in the discussion. Ask those who are not sharing, or who seem to be reluctant to share, questions to draw them in.
8. Be encouraging to those who participate. Say, "That's a good point." Or "Could you explain that for us a bit more?" Always be encouraging in your comments. If a person takes you too far off course gently nudge him back to the subject.
9. Always, always, always, spend time in prayer before and after your discussion.

This series on prayer has six lessons and that should get us through the month of November. Please feel free to call me or email me if you have any questions about the material or about ways you can best present it. God bless you as you lead your group!

-- Doug Hall