



SMALL GROUP TIPS AND TRICKS

TROUBLESHOOTING ISSUES

Human beings are broken, so everywhere there are people there can be problems. Below are some tips that address some of the challenges that might arise in your Small Group.

Constant Talker:

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

Some People Never Talk:

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

The Group is Not Engaging in the Discussion:

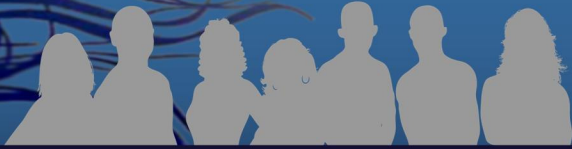
- Play "Devil's Advocate".
- Ask "Why?" questions.

A 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.

The Group Drifts Into Irrelevant Tangents:

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



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TROUBLESHOOTING ISSUES (continued)

A Difficult Question is Raised:

- Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know."
- Agree to research the question and bring an answer next time.

A Controversial Question is Raised:

- Set ground rules before the discussion begins.
- Acknowledge that Christians hold different views on a variety of topics.
- Scripture must substantiate all viewpoints.
- Agree that we are not going to settle this question for all Christians for all time in this one discussion.
- Focus on what the divergent opinions have in common.