

Communication and Discussion

FACILITATE DYNAMIC DISCUSSION - As the Group Leader, you are expected to be the facilitator of discussion. A facilitator is someone who makes a process easier. The discussion portion of a group meeting can at times feel awkward. Most people will be hesitant to share at first, but this DOES get better! The important thing is that you are intentional about moving the conversation forward and giving everyone an opportunity to weigh in.

BE PREPARED TO TALK - In any group setting, talking is contagious. Silence is also contagious. Create some momentum for your group, and keep it moving in the right direction. As the small group host, you will have to do some talking, however DON'T dominate the conversation. This is a strong temptation, especially if you have a quiet group. Find the balance between talking too much and embracing the growing pains of silence. Sometimes allowing for a moment of silence is allowing the Spirit to move.

COMMUNICATE CLEARLY - At New Song, we like to say, “To be clear is to be kind.” How many times have you had a negative experience due to miscommunication? Giving a vague or confusing message does not help anyone, for it often results in assumption. Try not to leave room for assumption, for assumption blocks connection.

KEEP IT OPEN-ENDED - Stay away from “Yes” or “No” questions. Push your group to dig past the surface by asking, “Why or why not?” Or, “What makes you feel that way?” Or, “How would you respond to that?”

FOLLOW THE 3 B'S - Tell your Group members to keep their answers brief, biblical, and beneficial. This will keep your group on track, give the talkative person a limit, and give the quiet person confidence in their brevity. If someone is dominating the conversation, politely redirect back to another person – “Susan, that is such great input; Jan, what is your take?”

Remember: Groups are not the place for a political or even theological debate.