

VIDEO 4: BEST PRACTICES

Elly Marroquin

As a small group leader there are some universal best practices that will help you successfully lead a small group such as creating a plan, maneuvering awkward moments, and creating space for the Holy Spirit to impact people's lives.

In part 4 of this video series, Elly Marroquin walks you through these best practices to help you confidently lead your small group.

BEST PRACTICES FOR LEADING A SMALL GROUP

1. _____

- Creating a plan helps you to develop continuity between meeting times, stay focused, be creative, and be confident.
- Six questions to guide your planning process
 - What passage of scripture will we be _____?
 - What is the main idea/theme/objective?
 - What is your call to _____?
 - What activities do I want to use?
 - What _____ and items will I need?
 - Am I evaluating my plan before my small group time?

2. Lead through _____ moments

- Let's examine a few scenarios or personality traits that may lead to awkward moments in your small group:
 - The Conversation Dominator: Never discourage people from participating. Instead have a private conversation encouraging them to help you involve others in discussion.
 - The Shy Small Group: Silence is not always bad; sometimes people need time to process. Consider using open-ended questions or even pairing people for discussion as an alternative to large group discussion.
 - The Over-sharer: Always thank people for their contribution effectively validating them. Then guide those in your small group to respond either with prayer or examining the scripture. A private conversation may also be necessary as you seek to pastor that individual.
 - The Challenger: Be careful not to escalate an authority confrontation. Remind everyone that we are to build one another in discussion. Let them know you would be happy to have a conversation with them at another time to address the concern they raised. Consider bringing a pastor into that conversation.
- Remember you are not alone! Your church leadership is there to support you as a small group leader.

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1. Create _____ - _____ moments
 - Pray that you would be open to the Holy Spirit's prompting and leading in your small group as you plan (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17, ESV; Galatians 6:2, AMP).
 - Plan a time for prayer in your small group. People should come to your small group expecting to pray!
 - Create space to seek the gifts of the Holy Spirit for individuals in your small group (1 Corinthians 4:1).

GROUP DISCUSSION:

2. As a group, create a mock plan for a small group by answering these six questions:
 - What passage of scripture will we be discussing?
 - What is the main idea/theme/objective?
 - What is your call to action?
 - What activities do I want to use?
 - What resources and items will I need?
 - Am I evaluating my plan before my small group time?
3. Have you ever led or been a part of a small group and encountered a conversation dominator, a shy small group, an over-sharer, or a challenger? How did you or the leader respond? Was the response positive or negative? How could the response be improved?
4. How do you plan to incorporate prayer into the routine of your small group?
5. Have you experienced the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Take time as a group to seek the Holy Spirit's gifts.