



# FACILITATE SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

## 5 QUICK TIPS

- 1** COME PREPARED IN PRAYER, BIBLE READING, AND WITH BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS
- 2** READ THE PASSAGE AND QUESTIONS SLOWLY TO THE GROUP
- 3** WAIT 7 SECONDS BEFORE REPEATING OR REWORDING THE QUESTION
- 4** ASK THE GROUP, "WHAT ELSE?" TO ENCOURAGE MORE RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS
- 5** BE OKAY WITH AWKWARD SILENCE

## How

### BEFORE GROUP

- Spend time in prayer, review the study/passage(s), and go over the questions you will be asking.
- You do not need to have all the answers, but some understanding beforehand will help the group run smoothly and show your intentionality.

### DURING GROUP

- Start and finish the study in prayer.
- Create a friendly environment (ex: Consider an icebreaker, always use positive language to encourage cooperation, & try to avoid sarcasm.)
- You should participate in the discussion, but not dominate the conversation.
- Trust the leading of the Holy Spirit; not everything will go as planned, and that is ok.
- Read over the "5 Quick Tips" to help facilitate the best group possible.

### AFTER GROUP

- Evaluate what went well and what you can improve.
- Consider asking for feedback or to watch someone else facilitate and glean wisdom from them.
- Give yourself grace. Know that even if you did everything "right," sometimes the group doesn't go as planned.
- Don't give up! Spend time in prayer thanking God and asking for His guidance.



# FACILITATE SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES

## 5 Quick Tips!

1. Come prepared to facilitate {in prayer, reading, and questions}
2. Read the passage and questions slowly to the group
3. Wait 7 seconds before repeating the question
4. Ask the group, "What else?" to encourage more responses
5. Be okay with awkward silence

## CREATE AN ACTION PLAN

### WHAT

After prayerfully considering the questions on the right, pick a study topic, book, or format that will best fit your group's personality.

### WHY

Next, create a purpose statement explaining the reason for the study.

### HOW

Review the "how" section on the right, then create a game plan for how and when you will prepare for your group and what new tips you will use to improve your facilitating.

You should also participate in the discussion, but not dominate the conversation. Above all else, trust the leading of the Holy Spirit; not everything will go as planned, and that is ok. **Read over the 5 quick tips to help facilitate the best group possible.**

**AFTER GROUP:** Evaluate what went well and what you can improve. Consider asking for feedback or to watch someone else facilitate and glean wisdom from them. Give yourself grace. Know that even if you did everything "right," sometimes the group doesn't go as planned. Don't give up! Spend time in prayer thanking God and asking for guidance.

## 1. WHAT

**Determine what type of study your group will do.**

Prayerfully, consider the demographic and needs of your group to help choose a study best for the people God has brought together.

- What is the average age and gender of the group?
- What season of life is the majority of the group?
- Are there similar interests shared? How would you describe the personality of the group?
- How well do people know and respect one another?
- What is the spiritual make-up of the group? {Are they newly seeking God or seasoned believers? Are there different religious backgrounds? How serious is the group about knowing and following God?}

## 2. WHY

**Consider why you want your group to cover the particular study.**

**Answer the why, by defining the purpose.**

You and your group members need to know why you are studying what you are studying. By doing so, you will be focused and able to stay on topic easier. To help, you should create a one-sentence purpose statement for the group and remind them of it at each meeting.

For example, if your group is primarily non-Christians or new to the Christian faith, you may consider starting by reading a gospel. Your purpose statement might then be: We are studying the gospel of John to understand who God is by knowing Jesus and developing a relationship with Him.

## 3. HOW

**BEFORE GROUP:** Spend time in prayer, review the study/passage(s), and go over the questions you will be asking. You do not need to have all the answers, but some understanding beforehand will help the group run smoothly and show your intentionality.

**DURING GROUP:** Start and finish the study in prayer. Create a friendly environment (ex: Consider an icebreaker, use positive language and encourage cooperation).