

Principles about Leading a Discussion

1. Being well prepared is Essential

- Know beforehand the Scripture and material on the topic so you can ask the next question and keep the discussion flowing.
- Pray, Pray, Pray
- We also want to not let the preparation govern the discussion. The leader must not try and get all the knowledge out from his or her individual study of the topic. Instead, be sensitive to where the people in the discussion are really interested and run with those things.

2. Focus the discussion on the Word

- Use a passage or a set of passages as the discussion organizer
- Solidify points that people make with Scripture, try and point the discussion back to the Word.

3. Leading of the Spirit

- Want to be sensitive to the Spirit moving in the discussion. This usually happens as a certain idea is based on His Word. Go with the certain direction as the Spirit leads.
- However, try and stay away from tangents. Always ask, “do the guys need this right now? Does this help meet the spiritual needs of the guys in group?”

4. Listen to what people are saying and try to direct the discussion toward where the people are at.

5. Flow of the Discussion

- It may help to come with a time frame of things to let the people know what the structure of the discussion will be.
- Give a time limit to the discussion and let everyone know. This will help focus the discussion time so that the people will...
 - Give more concise answers
 - Know when approximately the time will end
 - Feel like time just isn't being wasted
 - ... However, don't be too rigid in this because we still want hang out time as well (possibly after formal time) but know what the feel of the people is for that particular night. Possibly they need more of a laid back night

6. Have a vision and a heart for the people in the discussion.

- Know what kinds of people are participating and craft questions and discussion according to the preparation, maturity level, and personalities of those people.