

# Tips for How to Lead a Small Group

Leading a small group is a rewarding way to foster spiritual growth and community. Leading or facilitating a small group is different than teaching or leading a Bible study. Here are some tips and tricks to help you lead effectively:

## *1. Prepare Spiritually and Mentally*

- **Pray regularly** for your group members and ask God for guidance in leading discussions. Start praying for your time together before your group meets. Ask God to open everyone's eyes to see, their ears to hear and their hearts prepared to receive what the Lord has for them as you study the material together.
- **Study the material** ahead of time so you're familiar with the topic and ready for questions.

## *2. Create a Welcoming Atmosphere*

- Be at the door to greet each person coming in to let them know that they are **welcome and important**.
- Encourage **authenticity and openness** by modeling vulnerability.
- Make sure everyone feels **heard and valued**—no one should dominate the conversation.
- Set a comfortable tone with a warm greeting, snacks, or icebreakers.

## *3. Facilitate, Don't Preach*

- Your role is to **guide the discussion**, not to teach a lesson. Encourage participation by asking open-ended questions.
- Keep the focus on **engagement**—let people share their insights and personal experiences.
- Call on class members by name to help everyone engage.

## *4. Encourage Application*

- Help members apply the Bible to their daily lives by asking, **"How does this apply to you?"** or **"What action will you take?"**
- Suggest practical steps for living out faith during the week.

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### 5. *Be Flexible but Stay on Track*

- While it's important to follow the study, allow the Holy Spirit to guide conversations. Sometimes, people need to discuss personal matters or pray more than study.
- However, gently **steer the group back** when it goes too far off-topic.

### 6. *Encourage Relationships*

- Foster **connections outside of meetings** through social activities, prayer chains, or check-ins.
- Encourage **accountability partners** or small prayer groups within the group.

### 7. *Pray Together*

- Close each meeting with prayer, inviting everyone to share their requests.
- Consider rotating prayer leadership to involve more members.

### 8. *Follow Up*

- Reach out to absent members to show you care.
- Send group messages to encourage and remind members of key points from the meeting.

### 9. *Handle Conflict with Grace*

- Be a **peacemaker** if disagreements arise, always pointing back to Scripture and love.
- Address any issues directly but with kindness and humility.

By focusing on spiritual growth, connection, and authentic discussions, you'll help create a thriving, Christ-centered small group.