

Discovery Study Group and Facilitator Guidelines

Group Guidelines

1. Everyone shares in sentences (to avoid anyone talking too long).
2. Focus only on what this passage is saying (not other passages).
3. Focus only on what this group is experiencing (not other people's ideas, or outside sources).
[The question, "Where is that found in this passage?" helps avoid that.]
4. Give people time to respond (don't be afraid of silence, and allow people to "pass" if they so desire).

Facilitator Guidelines

5. Facilitate. Ask the questions, don't teach.
6. Keep the session on schedule—Complete all the questions.
(Note: This may be the hardest part.) Encourage everyone to share.
7. Responding to questions from individuals —Ask, "What in this passage helps us answer that question?"
(The goal is to help the group see that everyone can understand the Bible.) Facilitators: Don't contribute your answer/comment to every question from an individual. Let the group try to figure it out.
8. If an individual's question is not about the passage, say, "Let's discuss this further after our group time..."
If it is a genuine question, the person will make time afterwards. If you don't know the answer and no one else does, say, "Let's do a separate study at another time on a passage that answers that question."
9. Dealing with "strange" or "wrong" interpretations or distracting questions/ discussions. Ask the question, "Where is that found in this passage?" Ask the group if they see the same thing (builds a culture of self-correction). If the issue persists, suggest that you and the person talk about it afterwards because, "The goal for today is to focus on what this passage has to say."
10. Close the group to new members after the second or third week. If someone wants to bring a friend after that, help them start a new group with their friends.