

Trouble Shooting Small Group Issues

One Person Talks All the Time:

- Ask, "What does someone else think?"
- Use body language to address other people
- Direct questions to other people by name
- Talk privately with the person and ask them to help get other involved

Some People Never Talk:

- Ask easier questions
- Direct easy questions their way
- Enlist the help of your apprentice or other group members to draw them out
- Express appreciation (both publicly and privately) for the contributions they make

The Group is Not Interested in the Topic:

- Play "Devil's Advocate" (take the opposition and make them defend what they believe)
- Ask "Why?" questions
- Drop the topic and find what interests them

A Group Member Reaches an Obviously Wrong Conclusion:

- Ask, "What does anyone else think?"
- Redirect their attention to Scripture which leads to a correct conclusion
- Speak with them one-on-one if the wrong conclusion is still held

The Group Drifts Into Irrelevant Tangents:

- Be flexible; sometimes the issues need to be discussed even though they are not scheduled
- Explicitly bring the discussion back on topic
- Agree to discuss the topic at a later date

A Difficult Question is Raised:

- Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know"
- Agree to research the question and bring the answer next week

A Controversial Question is Raised:

- Set ground rules before the discussion begins
- We acknowledge that Christians hold different views on a variety of topics
- Scripture must substantiate all viewpoints
- We are not going to settle this question for all Christians for all time in this one discussion
- Focus on what the divergent opinions have in common