

LEADER: SUGGESTIONS & THOUGHTS AS YOU LEAD...!

5 thoughts on leading your group

1. PRAY for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to having a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. **Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group.**
2. PLAN where you want to take your group in the next 60-90 days. Is your group strong in some areas and weak in others? How can you challenge the members to live more balanced Christian lives? Challenge members to look for new ways for them to CONNECT and/or take NEXT STEPS toward growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Remember, your role will be most impactful if you focus on simply being an **ENCOURAGER**.
3. PONDER YOUR PROGRESS after each meeting and at the end of a semester. Reflect on what went well and what did not. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. Consider whether your plan is being effective in moving the group to greater understanding and commitment. How are you doing with leading the discussion: is it stimulating, challenging, and meaningful? Are you able to keep the group on track? Do you need to make some changes?
4. PREVIEW the weekly GG questions, understanding that they are simply a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. As the GG leader, you should examine and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group. Decide in advance what is most important to focus on, should time not allow for the entire lesson. Again, it is just a guide for you!
5. PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY: Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately, you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments as we all grow in our relationships with Jesus Christ. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.

Family | Part 4

March 8, 2020

QUESTIONS

- What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you?
 - Why did this idea grab your attention?
- What are some ways that we disrupt our "families?"
 - Share a story that you have witnessed in your own life or someone you may know.
- What is the difference between being interdependent & independent?
 - What is the danger of the latter?
- Read Ephesians 4:25
 - Expound on what it means by "all parts of one body."
- What can ultimately occur when someone keeps bringing up a loved one's past mistakes, even after they have repented and asked forgiveness?
- Read Ephesians 4:28
 - What was Paul trying to explain to the recipients of his letter regarding hard work and how to handle the results?
- What is the "lingua?"
 - Read Ephesians 4:29
 - Explain how versatile this instrument can be.
- What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?
 - Forgiveness: between your heart & God
 - Reconciliation: willful choice of 2 people
 - Read Matthew 18:21-22
 - Based on that passage, what do the words 'forgiveness' and 'reconciliation' mean?
- During the message, we looked at the question, "how do we forgive deep hurts?"
 - The answers were:
 - Prep (Matthew 18:21)
 - Remember (Read Matthew 18:33)
 - Security (loved by God unconditionally)
 - How can each of those thoughts help one to forgive?
- There are three different outcomes as it relates to forgiveness and reconciliation
 - *-full forgiveness/full reconciliation*
 - *-full forgiveness/partial reconciliation*

- o -full forgiveness/NO reconciliation*
 - Give a real-life example of what each one of these might look like
- Final Thought:
 - o Always forgive fully while reconciling to the fullest degree possible.*
 - o Read Ephesians 4:32*
 - As a Christ-follower, what are we ultimately to do when it comes to forgiveness?
 - Why?