

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.

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QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever known someone who **LITERALLY** dropped everything, their job, their marriage, etc. and said that they were following their heart?
-What was the outcome?

2. ***Tautophrase***: a phrase or sentence that repeats an idea in the same words
(examples: “What’s done is done?” “It is what it is” “You do you”
“Haters gotta hate”): What are some more examples of tautophrases?
What do you think makes these phrases so popular in our society today?
How can they be used to accept our selfish behavior?

3. Read the story of the Scorpion & the Frog
-A scorpion and a frog meet on the bank of a babbling stream. It's too treacherous to cross, so the scorpion nicely asks the frog to carry him across on its back. This makes the frog a little suspicious. It asks, “How do I know you won’t sting me?” The scorpion says, “Because if I do, I will die too.” That sound reasoning relaxes the frog's nerves. So he allows the scorpion to climb aboard and they shove off across the flowing water. They get halfway across the stream and the scorpion stings the frog directly in the middle of his back. The frog feels the onset of the scorpion's poison and starts to sink. He manages one dying breath: "Why?! Now, we're both gonna die!" And the scorpion replies: “It’s my nature...”
Moral: humans possess compulsions that they cannot repress, even when it is in their best interest.
-Blaming our nature is very popular, that’s what the enemy wants us to do. Jesus came so that, in His Strength, we can be overcomers.
-What does that mean to you?

4. Read John 8:1-6
-In an effort to regain their ‘religious’ influence, the Pharisees were blind to the fact that they were punishing a woman for committing a crime that takes two individuals. They were simply using her as a pawn or tool for their **OWN PERSONAL GAIN**.
-Have you ever witnessed an act similar to this, maybe not at the life threatening level, but someone was de-humanized so that others could prosper, move forward, or receive pleasure?

5. Read John 8:7-8
-Why is it so much easier to recognize sin in other people’s lives?
-Have you ever caught yourself pointing your finger at someone’s life and you were actually doing the same thing?

6. Read John 8:9-11
Sin guarantees enjoyment, but the price is defiance to God and it will hurt us in the end.

-The lure of sin will cause us to accept ‘truths’ that are not true simply because they fit our selfish desires.

-Do you know anyone or maybe yourself that has used something that wasn’t true as “TRUTH,” to fit his/her lifestyle or poor choices?

-Discuss: no names :)

7. Why do some folks think that happiness and holiness cannot co-exist in their lives?

-What are some examples of wrong places/things that people look to for their happiness?

-Why do they continue to do these things or go to these places?

8. James 4:7-8

7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

-Five action verbs are underlined in this passage.

What does each of these action verbs mean to you as it relates to your growing relationship with Jesus Christ?

Close in prayer

- Pray together as a Growth Group
 - Be bold and pray with confidence!
 - Pray to grow your faith in a way that your faith can be trusted.
 - Pray for NRC and for all those that attend to realize the foundation that can be created by actively participating in a GG! (*a seed needs to have strong roots*)