

## **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.

## **The Gifted**

Stand-Alone Message

*February 2, 2020*

### **QUESTIONS**

- Even if your GG has already shared their word, verse and/or fruit, please go around the group and share again.
- What was your favorite gift you gave this Christmas?
- Do you have a New Year's resolution for the coming year?
  - If so, what is it?
- Think about your best friend.
  - What are some ways God has gifted them?
- What are some ways God has gifted you?
  - Do you find it easier to see your gifts or other people's?
- What opportunities has God given you to use your gifts?
  - How are you using those opportunities?
- Read 1 Samuel 10:21-22
  - What are some ways that you find yourself "hiding" in the baggage?
  - What keeps us from implementing or using the gifts that God has given us?
  - What can we do for ourselves or each other to prevent us from "hiding" in the baggage?
- Read 1 Samuel 17:26
  - What was the difference between David's response to God's calling and Saul's response to God's calling?
- Read 1 Samuel 17:32
  - What were David's final words?
    - How can we begin to think that way in our calling?
- The Good News of Jesus Christ wasn't brought to you and I to add something else to our lives. The Good News of Jesus Christ brings FREEDOM to our lives in this challenging world.
  - What FREEDOMS have you understood since receiving the love of Jesus Christ?
- Pastor Bryan warned..."don't confuse impressive for important!"
  - What is meant by that as it relates to our Christian lives?