

12 Guidelines For Small Group Discussions

Creating safe environments where relationships can grow

Implement these guidelines and watch the relationships and transparency of your group grow deeper



01 SAFE PLACE

We will strive to create an environment where we can be real, open, and honest about our lives. Whether we are feeling discouraged or we are happy, angry or anxious, we should be free to share our real lives,

02 CONFIDENTIALITY

What is said between us stays between us. This is non negotiable.

03 LISTEN

Let's value each another during conversations by really listening to what is being shared. Let's avoid thinking about how we are going to respond, or what we are going to say next.

04 PAUSE

We will allow a pause in conversation after one of us shares, giving the person sharing the chance to finish, and giving us the opportunity to consider what was just shared before we respond.



05 SILENCE

It is important to allow silence to linger in the group as it often provides an opportunity for someone to share, and for members in the group to process the topic or question being considered.

06 NO DISTRACTIONS

Give your full attention to the person speaking - no phone calls, text messages, or side conversations.


07 NO FIXING

Sometimes we just need someone to listen. We don't necessarily have to solve each others problems, we do need to give encouragement; speak truth, and point to Jesus.



08 NO RESCUING

When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.



09 SHARING

Be sensitive about the amount of time you share. Don't monopolize your time together - it is important that everyone has a chance to share.

10 BE SELF AWARE

Be self-aware of how you are personally impacting the people around you through your words, actions and non-verbal communication.



11 USE 'I' STATEMENTS



It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "us", "we", etc.

12 RESOLVE CONFLICT



vs



We will commit to resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues arise between us, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues.

Here are a few key Scriptures that address solving conflict.

If someone sins against you (Matthew 18:15-20)

Forgive a sinner (Colossians 3:12-13)

Reconciling differences (Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 7:1-5)



WITH SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES YOU CAN..

..establish boundaries for people to operate within.

...help with the flow and pace of the discussions.

...help us value one another.

...help people to be more comfortable sharing deep and meaningful things.

For more information on discipleship coaching visit our website:



JimPutman.com