

Responding to God through Small Group Bible Discussion

Leading People to Respond to God in Bible Discussion

Focus on application and response instead of Bible knowledge.

- Educational research has shown that lecturing is relatively ineffective in changing
- Modeling, problem-solving, and discussion are far more powerful in transforming personal values and behavior.

Advantages to following Sunday's message and scripture in your Small Group:

- There is synergy between God's word on Sunday and God's word in the Small Group.
- It allows the Small Group to focus on application because they have already received extended teaching or preaching related to the passage and theme.
- It frees Small Group leaders to focus more on prayer and relationships rather than preparation for meetings.

Principles to follow:

- Normally focus on just one paragraph or verse from the Bible.
- Have a volunteer read the passage. Some people do not feel comfortable reading in public.
- Non-Christians and new Christians can be intimidated by questions that require cross-references or background knowledge. Ask questions that assume no previous Bible knowledge.
- Interact with the passage not people's opinion.
- Don't preach (or let anyone else preach or dominate the meeting). People can get sermons on Sunday morning.
- Don't intimidate or embarrass anyone.
- Don't defend the Bible.
- Ask open rather than closed questions.

Four questions that will work for almost any passage:

- What stands out to you in this passage? (Probe)
- What seems to be the main point? (Dig & Discuss)
- Can you illustrate this with an example from your own life? (Illustrate)
- What do you need from God right now? (Respond)