



LEADING A GROUP DISCUSSION

The benefits of a group discussion are plentiful when an insightful moderator navigates it. What do they do? They talk as little as possible. They guide through others. They realize that most people will not share beyond a shallow level until they are secure of being heard. Really heard. They know that when participants finally open up, the best reply is God's Word, not opinions, free advice, or personal experiences. It's a skill that you can develop with practice.

The TBI Moderator's Objective

To create a loving atmosphere that supports growing in God's Word and trusting Him as our Father by listening and learning from one another.

1. Begin Group Discussion with prayer and introductory thoughts. (don't preach!)
2. Frequently remind them, *"We are here to grow in God. We need each other."*
3. Your objective is to blend personalities until everyone is comfortable sharing their thoughts.
4. If a few dominate the discussion, simply say, *"Let's hear from some others for a while."*
5. Involve quieter ones by asking their opinion, not a *"yes or no"* question.
6. Navigate the conversation back to the objective by changing the topic or asking a question.
7. Deal with disagreements by interrupting with, *"That would be a good discussion for another time, but we are here to get through this workbook together."* Correcting someone is not recommended.
8. Here's a great prayer: *"Holy Spirit, this discussion isn't going right. Help me get it back on track."*
9. If a student reveals a need, you may ask someone to pray right then or make a mental note to pray for her during the prayer time.
10. Remind them to respect one another by keeping personal discussions confidential.

Questions To Foster Discussion

- Highs and Lows – Ask someone to describe their week. What was their *"high"* moment and *"low"* moment?
- What part of this week's reading inspires you the most?
- What part was confusing or difficult to accept?
- Share a moment when you previously experienced this.
- Does knowing God as our Father make these chapters clearer or easier?

You have succeeded if the students leave each class being heard and inspired to grow in God.

