

## TEACHING TIPS

### How You Effectively Lead a Small Group Discussion

#### INTRODUCTION

**A. You must come prepared.**

**1. Keys to leading a discussion effectively.**

- a. Know your goal.** *What things are you trying to accomplish with your small group discussion?*
- b. Know your method:** 3-D: a *discussion* that is *directed*, which leads to *discovery* of truth that can be applied.
- c. Use good questions.**

*What are some things that make for a good question?*

**2. A suggested approach to leading a discussion.** A good discussion will usually have a blend of observation: what does the passage say; interpretation: what does the passage mean; and then application: how does this relate to me?

- a. Observation questions.** Ask questions that address the main point.
  - *What stands out to you in this passage?*
  - *What is Paul talking about?*
  - *What were some broad takeaways from the sermon/lesson?*

The two questions you should use most frequently during the observation stage are: what things strike you in this passage; and what else do you see?

- b. Interpretation questions.** What does the passage mean? Establish the right answers and gently distinguish these from the wrong ones. Ask questions that get them into the text and it may require some thought.
- c. Application questions.** What does the passage mean to me? This is the heart of your discussion. Your small group provides a great setting to go deep on application. The person who teaches should give two or three application questions, which you can use as starter questions.

There are *general application* questions that are open-ended.  
There are also *specific application* questions.

## **B. How to lovingly handle difficult people.**

### **1. How to handle wrong answers.**

*What do you do when you get an off the wall comment?*

### **2. What do you do about tough questions?**

### **3. What happens when someone asks a question that leads down a rabbit trail?**

### **4. What about the person who dominates or answers every question?**

An excellent resource: “Home Fellowship Group Leaders Ministry Manual,” appendix two: Teaching Tips: How to Teach a Bible Study.