

# Leading An Effective Bible Discussion

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Effective Leaders:

1. Serve as facilitators, not teachers. Your goal is to encourage personal interaction and self-discovery. Avoid being overly directive or too passive.
2. Focus on what the text has to say, not what you have to say. Point members to Scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to make applications according to each member's needs.
3. Maintain an atmosphere of trust and openness, which lead to open discussion. Never put down a person's comments or contribution.
4. Ask open-ended questions, which have several possible answers and can't be answered "yes" or "no".
5. Encourage group participation by calling on non-participants by name. This also helps control the overly talkative.
6. Stimulate discussion with encouraging words such as "thank you" or follow up questions. Demonstrate to people that you are listening.
7. Deal with interruptions by using encouraging words such as "what do others think?" or "Do you agree?" Avoid directly telling a person he/she is wrong.
8. Encourage application by asking questions like, "In light of what we've studied, what is a step of action that you can take?"
9. Keep discussion on track by acknowledging difficult issues or questions, but be willing to table the issue until you have finished group discussion.
10. Postpone difficult issues until later to keep the group focused.

**Adopted from the Corrigan Leader Training**