

SMALL GROUP ANYWHERE

5 Steps to Leading a Great Small Group Anytime, Anywhere!

Leading a small group may seem like an intimidating challenge to you. Maybe you feel like you don't have time to study, prepare, and lead a compelling experience for your friends, neighbors, classmates, etc. BUT the truth is... you can! And you don't need to have as much time or resources as you may think – in fact, by using the 5-step format below you can lead a great, encouraging small group experience anytime, anywhere!

STEP #1 – Lead an opening prayer.

Keep it simple! Ask for a volunteer to pray (or pray yourself) something like this: *“God, thank you for this time we get to spend together today. Help us to be honest and to encourage each other. We invite you into this time and into our hearts, in Jesus’ name, amen.”*

STEP #2 – “Good stuff.”

You'll be “going around the circle” in your group for the next three steps, letting each person take a turn sharing their answers. Your first time around the group, ask for “good stuff.” Share what is going well in your life, what you're excited about, what you're thankful for, etc. etc. If group members need help, turn the question into a prompt, i.e. “finish this sentence...”

- “Right now I'm really excited about...”
- “Today I'm thankful for...”
- “The best thing in my life currently is...”
- “A highlight of my last week was...”

STEP #3 – “Tough stuff.”

For your second time around the group, ask members to share the “tough stuff” they're dealing with right now. Share things you're struggling with, things that aren't going so well, a current challenge or crisis in your life, etc. etc. Again, using prompts may work well in this step, AND as the leader you can take the opportunity after people share to encourage them for their openness and extend empathy in whatever they're dealing with if appropriate.

Prompting ideas could be:

- “Right now I'm struggling with...”
- “I find myself worrying about...”
- “A big challenge I'm facing right now is...”
- “If I could change one thing about the last 7 days it would be...”

STEP #4 – “God stuff.”

Your last time around the group you'll discuss how your walk with Jesus is going, what you're reading/learning in the Bible, what you heard at church during the last week, how you've seen God show up in your life, etc. etc. If group members struggle with coming up with content here, it's a good time to challenge them to seek God in their own lives through personal spiritual disciplines, participating in corporate worship/teaching times, and so on. You may even choose to all read the same devotional book or Bible reading plan together to prompt more discussion here, or you may find that your small group has no problem at all coming up with answers to the “God stuff”

question! Prompts could include:

- “At church this week I learned...”
- “The best thing I read in the Bible this week was...”
- “I really felt God's presence this week when...”
- “God spoke to me most clearly in the last week through...”
- “I felt an answer to prayer during the last week when...”

STEP #5 – Prayer requests, closing prayer.

Finish your group time by asking if anyone has something you can pray for (you don't need to go around the entire group, just let members share if they are willing) and then close your time together with a prayer like this: *“Thank you God for this time together, for everything that's been shared, especially these requests, be with us in this coming week in Jesus’ name, amen.”*