

## Tips for a Fruitful Small Group

1. There's nothing wrong with saying "I don't know" to someone's questions. Maybe ask everyone to look into scripture that week and discuss it later. Feel free to ask me to look into it or ask Jeff/Curt for ideas of where the answer to the questions may be in the Bible so you'll be prepared to lead discussion. Titus 2 idea: find a co-leader and meet with them during week to go over homework/pray for small group members.
2. If the group discussion gets on a "rabbit trail," try to lead the ladies back to the homework questions ("those are great questions, but let's get back to question 3'). Use your best judgment about bringing the comments back to the homework or letting the group's discussion keep flowing. If you aren't comfortable about where the talk is headed, return to the homework (or you can always start prayer time).
3. Mind your manners. Remember that Presbyterians have a reputation for coming across as "know-it-all." Encourage a *safe* atmosphere for the inquiring visitor or new believer. Lead your discussion with your own questions about the homework or lecture. If you feel someone in your group is intimidating others by their strong personality or views, you may want to think about approaching them privately. "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." Colossians 4:6
4. Be aware of "advice frenzy." Remember that our goal is to look at what *Scripture* has to say, not what each lady's *opinion* is. If different views of Scripture are presented by different individuals in a group, you may acknowledge that different Christians do not always agree on what the Bible says, but our church teaches \_\_\_\_\_. Encourage the ladies to look in the Bible themselves to see if their church (Presbyterians included) is in line with the Bible.
5. Remember to pray for wisdom and humility in leading your small group.
6. Encourage your prayer group to not share tell-tale details about someone else's problem.
7. Be sensitive to others' "stage of life." Don't let the mommy-group dominate the conversation so that the college student feels left out.

—Teri Anderson