

Common Challenges in Leading

Setting the Group Culture

During the first weeks of the Group, we share with the entire Group that we are here to love and pursue Jesus and to love one another. We want to support and encourage one another, but not try to “fix” one another. Let the Group know that as a church we do have care available in people and resources that can help.

The Conversation Hog/Cross Talker

Characteristics:

- Easily controls the conversation
- Always has a long answer
- Dominates with endless commentary on their life
- Gives advice to anyone who shares in the Group
- Will always relate someones else’s experience to something they experiencing in their own life

How to navigate the relationship:

- In Group time, connect the conversation back to the central biblical text that you are studying. This is the advantage of using the sermon guide or studying a book of the Bible
- Talk with them before or after Group
- Explain - that you love their participation and willingness to share.
- Ask - if they will help get others involved by waiting a couple of minutes before answering a question
- During Group conversation, if they continue to hog conversation then feel free to redirect back to the content conversation
- Follow up with another similar conversation like those above after Group
- If the situation does not change feel free to contact your campus staff

The “Opinion-Based Theologian”

Characteristics:

- Uses “I feel...” often while discussing scripture
- Uses scripture out of context
- Contradicts scripture
- Gives commentary that is rooted in their own personal experience and opinion over scripture

How to navigate the relationship:

- Always connect the conversation back to the original text. There are always ways to connect back to the truth
- Talk to them after or before Group and recast the vision of the Group as being centered on truth from God’s word.
- Encourage them that you value their opinion and their experience. Remind them that if each person in the Group leans on experiences and opinion over truth we will grow only as far as that will take us. God’s Word, on the other hand, can never be exhausted in how far we grow and take steps toward Christ’s likeness.

Common Challenges in Leading

What Should I Do When I Need To Stop Leading a Group?

There are seasons when you might need to step down from Group leadership. The following steps will ensure your Group members remain connected:

- Have a conversation with the person who you have been raising up to lead and invite them to learn more about leadership at Bethlehem.
- Invite them to take a next step by filling out a Group Leadership Interest Form *see resources page for link to Group Leadership Interest Form.
- Communicate changes in leadership to your Group.
- Notify our Discipleship Team or your campus Staff.