



Facilitating the Lesson



4G Mentoring: Growing, Guiding, and
Guarding the Global Bride of Christ

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Foreword

This document has been designed for use with small groups using cell-phones, tablets, computers, TV connections, or projectors. This document is not designed as a printed book (though it may be printed) or large group presentation but rather an electronic discussion guide for small or medium sized multi-language groups. The graphics on each page are designed to ease cross-cultural communication issues when using a translator or with group members using a second language. We hope that this document helps facilitate discussions about the Gospel of Jesus Christ in both formal and informal discussion groups in homes, churches, and coffee shops around the world. The copyright on this document allows you to freely distribute and even modify the content to meet your needs.

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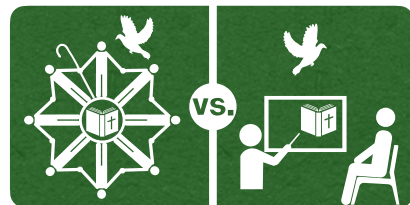
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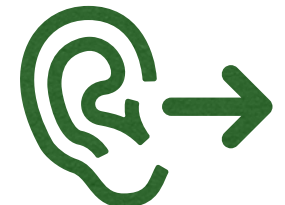
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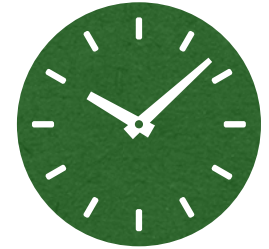
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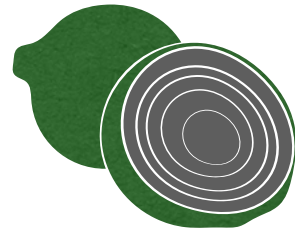
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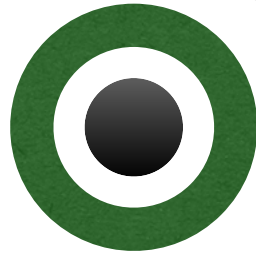
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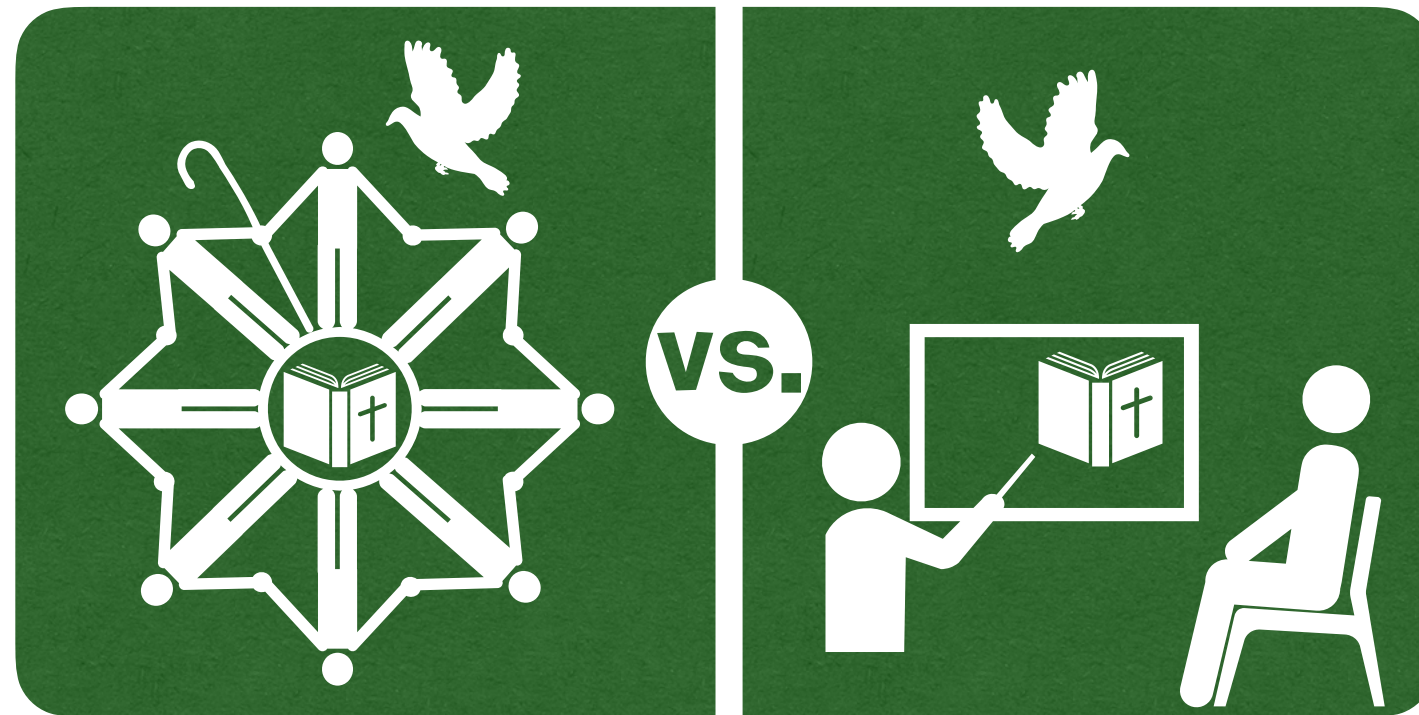


People Learn Best Through Discovering Things Themselves



Key Idea: People learn best through discovering things themselves rather than someone giving them the answer.

Facilitate Biblical Discussions (Inductive Vs Deductive Bible Study)



Discussion facilitator (Inductive)

- Read the passage
- Ask discussion questions
- Group seeks answers from the Word

Teacher (Deductive)

- Read the passage
 - Present the material from the Word
 - Student learns quietly
-
- The Holy Spirit reveals Truth
 - Students apply Truth to their lives

In inductive-style Bible teaching, the leader is a “discussion facilitator”. The facilitator directs the group members to read a passage, asked strategic questions, and discover biblical truths and application themselves with help from the Holy Spirit. It is easier to train a good group discussion facilitator than it is to develop a skilled deductive-style Bible study leader.

In deductive-style Bible teaching, the leader is the “teacher” and he /she presents the material to the group in lecture style. The student learns quietly and the Holy Spirit directs hearers to apply the lesson to their lives. It is difficult to find and train skilled deductive-style teachers. Consider using these teachers strategically for leadership development where deductive style teaching is essential.

Both forms of teaching are necessary and should be utilized in strategic ways. Some facilitators will become gifted teachers. Hopefully all facilitators will become gifted disciples and mentors.

Key Idea: Train “discussion facilitators” for new home groups but look for “gifted teachers” to use in leadership development.

Let the Holy Spirit Be the Main Teacher



The Holy Spirit will often lead group members to express truth from the text that you, as the facilitator, have never seen before.

There is much that we can learn from these discussions as the Holy Spirit leads and empowers the group to discover truth from the biblical text. This interaction of the Word, the Spirit, and the Body of Christ in studying and applying Scripture is a very healthy part of spiritual growth for Christians. But make sure to help the group learn good principles for interpreting Scripture and to remember that the Holy Spirit never contradicts the Word nor does our experience override biblical Truth.

*“When the **Spirit of truth** comes, he **will guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak on his own authority, but **whatever he hears he will speak**, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” (John 16:13)*

*“The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them **because they are spiritually discerned**. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 2:14-16)*

Key Idea: We want the Holy Spirit to be the main teacher rather than trust in clever methods or gifted teachers.

Use a Standard Set of Questions



There are many different questions sets that may be useful in facilitating a guided discussion of Bible passages. A standard set of questions helps group members learn the flow of the discussion. Always include questions that draw out both the actual meaning and daily application of the text. Avoid the question “What does this mean to you?” This question makes it seem like the Bible may “mean” different things to different people and that biblical Truth may be relative. The Bible has a specific meaning that we want to draw out from the discussion. But the impact and application of any given passage may be relative to a person’s situation.

One example:

Leader:



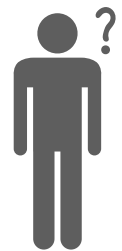
1. **What did you hear?** (Repeat back as much of the story as you can remember in your own words - it doesn't have to be perfect and others can help you.)



2. **What does it mean?** (What is God trying to teach us about himself, Jesus, mankind, sin, salvation, etc.)



3. **What should you do?** (How do you apply this lesson to your life. How should your life change? How can you obey what you have learned?)



4. **Who else needs to hear this message?**

Other sample question sets:

1. Who will repeat the story?
2. What does this say about God?
3. What does this say about mankind?
4. What is interesting or difficult to understand about this passage?
5. How do we apply this to our lives?

1. Who will repeat the story?
2. What does this say about God?
3. What does this say about mankind?
4. How does this point to Jesus?
5. How do we apply this to our lives?

1. Look up (What does it tell us about God?)
2. Look down (What does it tell us about mankind?)
3. Look forward (How should we apply this to our lives?)

Key Idea: Use a standard set of questions to guided the discussion so that group members discover the actual meaning of the text and apply what they learn to their daily lives.

Use Additional Creative Questions



Sample creative questions:

- Why do you think David said this?
- Did Jesus really say that Christians can never make any judgements about anyone?
- What pattern do we see here from the early Church?

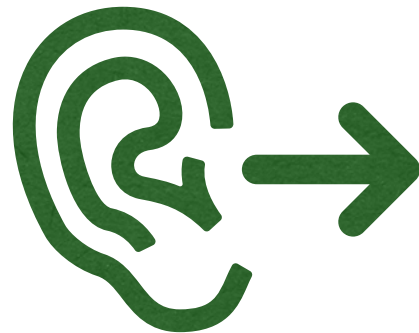
Key Idea: Use additional creative questions to draw out important points in the biblical text if you see the group is overlooking important information.

Help Everyone Participate



Key Idea: We want everyone to take part in the discussion.
You may need to direct creative questions to quieter individuals.

Help People Apply What They Learn Immediately (Hear and Do)



*“But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, **he will be blessed in his doing.**” (James 1:22-25)*

Key Idea: Help people apply what they learn immediately instead of asking them just to come, sit, and listen. It is important that group members learn to immediately put into practice what they are learning from the Bible.

Don't Make People Drink From a Firehose



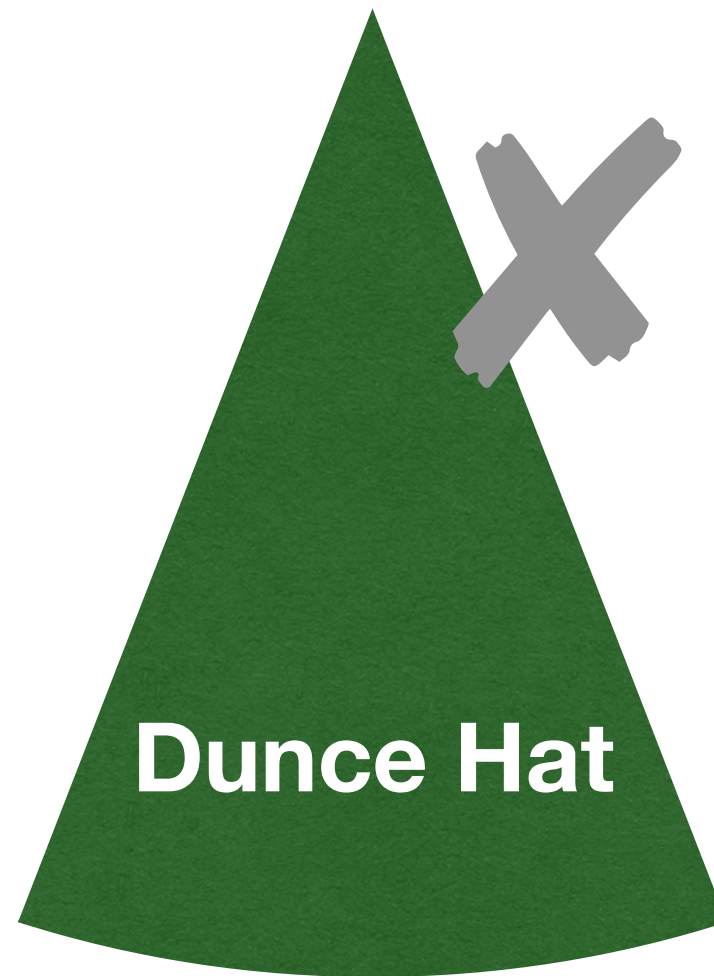
Key Idea: If we give people too much information at one time they become overwhelmed and cannot obey what they are learning. We are then actually teaching them to disobey.

Listen More Than You Speak (Two Ears, One Mouth)



Key Idea: Facilitators ask directed questions but then let group members find the answers in the scriptures themselves. The facilitator can participate but should not dominate the discussion.

Don't Belittle People for Questions



Key Idea: Belittling someone for their question will lead to a breakdown in communication and fellowship among your group members.

Prepare Beforehand With a Study Bible (or Commentary)



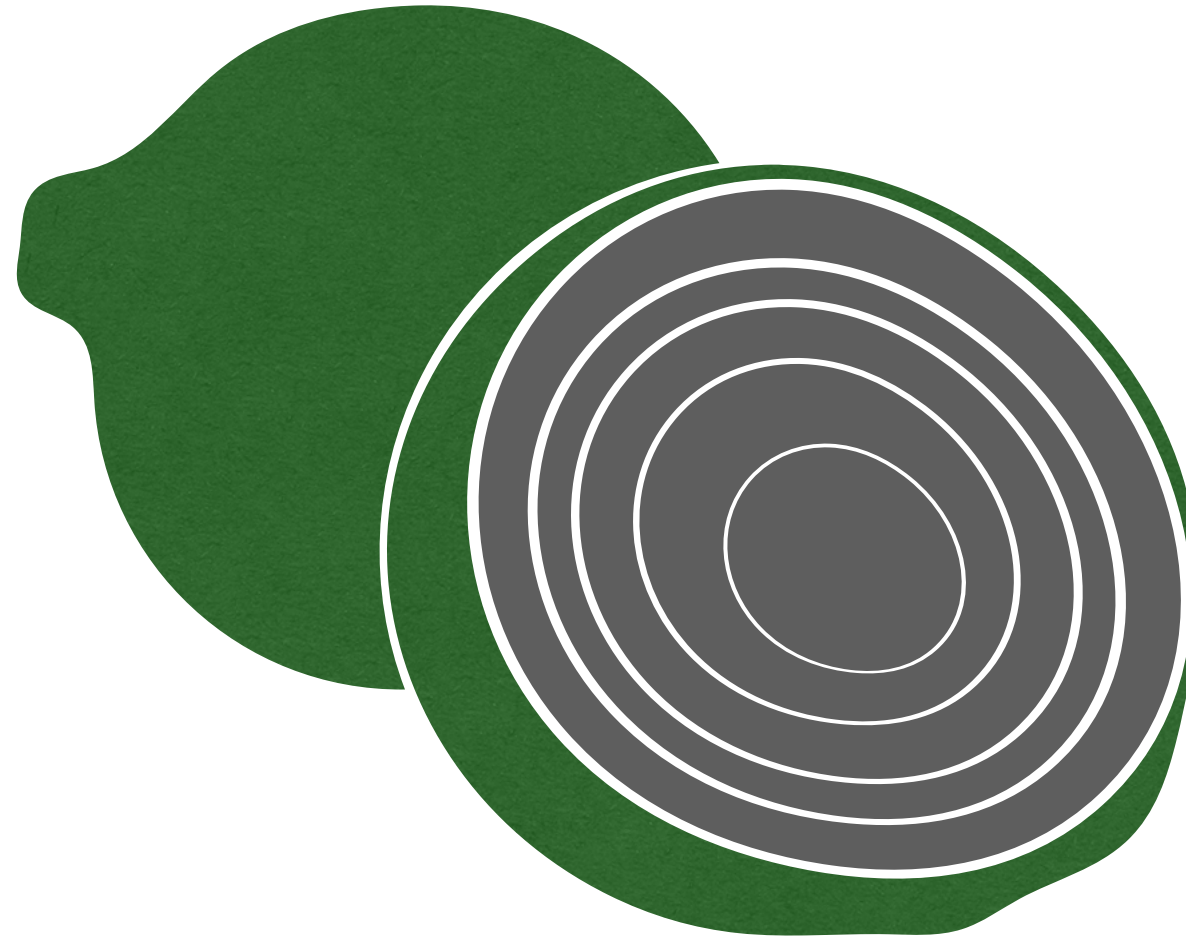
Key Idea: Prepare beforehand with a Study Bible or a commentary if possible.

Correct Unbiblical Ideas by Pointing To Scripture



Key Idea: Correct misunderstanding gently by pointing to scripture, not others sources or experiences.

The Onion Principle



Key Idea: As we go deeper in scripture we will continue to learn new things just like peeling layers off of an onion. We can always learn something new even from passages we think we know well.

Repetition Is Essential to Learning



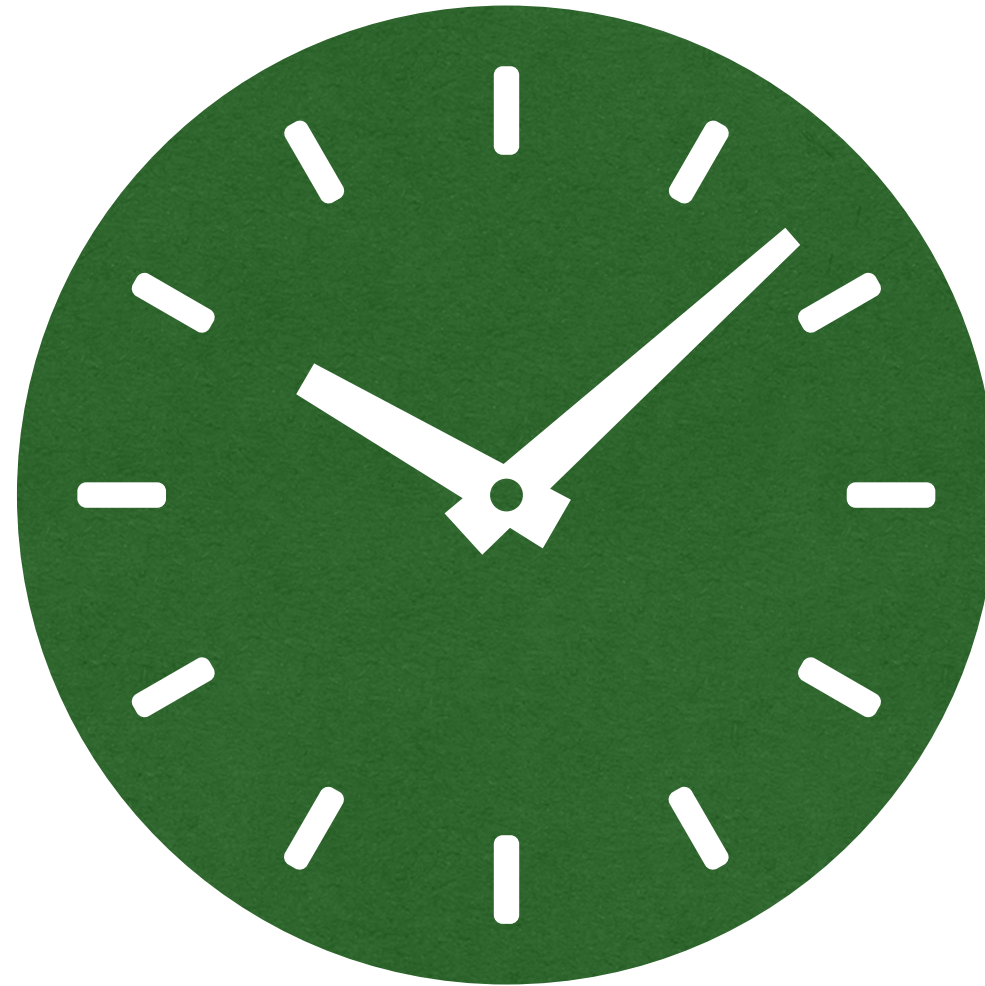
Key Idea: Repetition is essential to learning so repeat important information often and in different ways.

Admit When You Don't Know the Answer



Key Idea: If someone asks a question you can't answer admit honestly you don't know the answer and that you will seek the answer and share it with the group next time.

Respect the Time of Others



Key Idea: In time sensitive cultures, respect others by keeping the lesson within the allotted time or you will loose members.

Don't Drag Out Questions



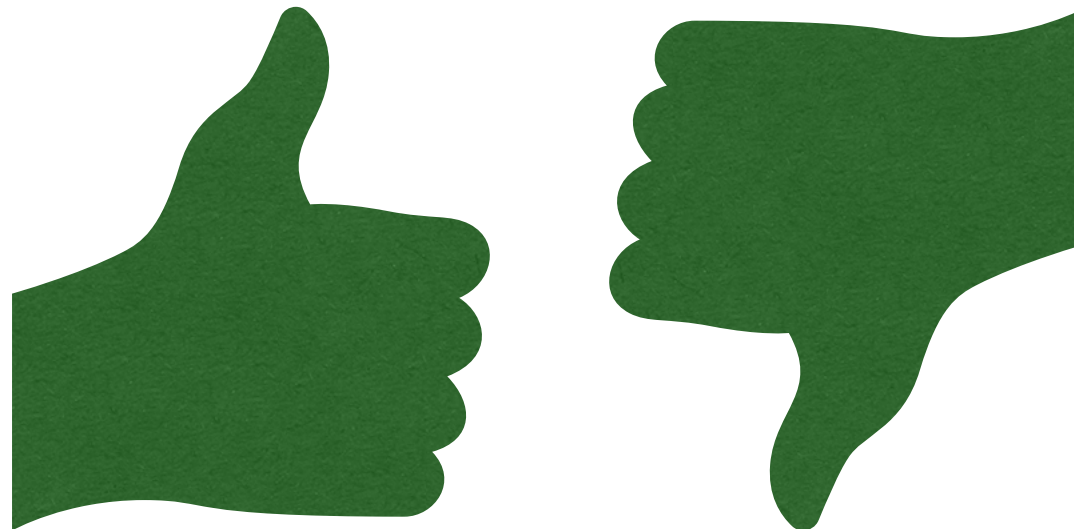
Key Idea: If a question has a short and simple answer we can move on to the next question rather than try to make that question stretch to fit the suggested time limit.

Expect To Make and Learn From Mistakes



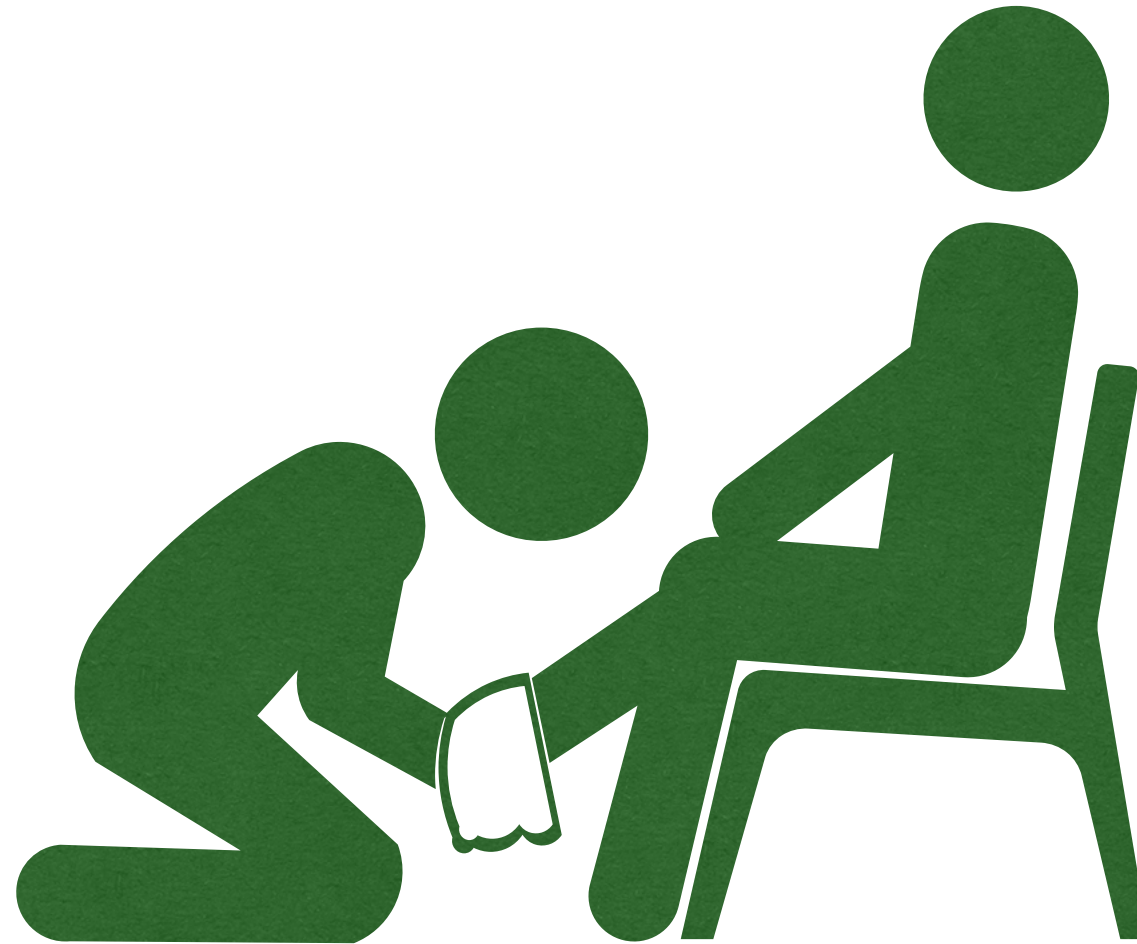
Key Idea: Expect to make and learn from mistakes as this is a normal part of the learning process for all leaders.

Evaluate and Adapt Continuously



Key Idea: Evaluate and adapt continuously so that your group and your leadership skills are always improving and growing.

Stay Humble and Learn From Others



Key Idea: Stay humble and learn from others or you may fall into pride and false teaching.

The Essential Circle

- Essentials of the faith
- Matters of Practice
- Important but not essential to faith or practice

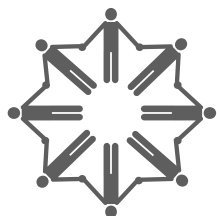


Key Idea: Some answers to biblical questions are essential to our faith, some guide how we practice our faith, while others are important but not essential to our faith or practice. Make sure not to turn every disagreement into a matter of “essentials of the faith.”

Case Study 1



You are starting a new group as a facilitator and need a set of standard study questions to use during the discussion time. What set of questions would you use and why?

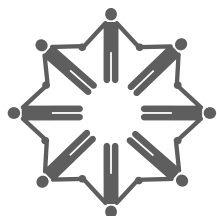


**Break up into groups and discuss.
(suggested time - 10 minutes)**

Case Study 2



You have been leading a group for several months and the group members seem to be learning but not obeying what they are learning. What may be some of the causes of this disconnect between learning and doing? What might you do to change this pattern?

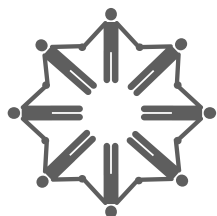


**Break up into groups and discuss.
(suggested time - 10 minutes)**

Case Study 3



You are leading a group of believers who have been meeting for several years. Several of the group members are asking very basic questions that you feel mature believers should already know. How and when do you handle these questions?

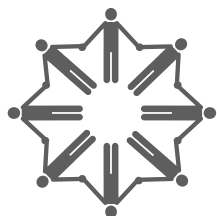


**Break up into groups and discuss.
(suggested time - 10 minutes)**

Case Study 4



One of the members in your group is a very gifted teacher in his professional life and is growing to be a very mature and dedicated believer. Where could this person be used most strategically in your network of small groups?



**Break up into groups and discuss.
(suggested time - 10 minutes)**

