



THE COMMUNITY

Leading A Small Group | PREPARING THE LESSON

What Do I Need to Know?

Apply the Lesson Yourself

You can't lead a good discussion and point a group toward life changing application if you haven't studied and applied it yourself.

Study the lesson, asking God to teach you from His Word. Consider how the passage exposes our brokenness. Ask God to show you how he wants you to respond to Christ through what you are learning. If you're personally involved with the material, you'll find it easier to provide personal illustrations.

Discover the Big Idea of the Lesson

Go back through it and think about how to help the group discover and apply the truths of the lesson. Here are four steps that will help you prepare to lead the lesson.

1. Pray.

No matter how confident you feel in your ability to lead a group, continually ask God to guide you in your planning and implementation. You can plant a seed and water it, but God must cause the growth. You can prepare a brilliant lesson, but God must change lives. Spend time asking God to change you and the people in your group. Ask Him for wisdom and direction as you prepare. It's possible to spend hours preparing for your group time, but bottom line, it's God who uses His Word and Spirit to work in and through you.

2. Discover the Big Idea.

After you've spent some time studying the passage, summarize the big idea of your passage in a single sentence. "I think the big idea of this passage is _____."

3. Determine the learning objectives for the lesson.

In light of what this passage is saying, answer the following questions: "What do I want them to understand and believe? What do I want them to experience? How do I want them to respond to Christ? (Be sure your application is aimed at heart-resistance to Christ.)"

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Write down your answers to 2 and 3 at the start of the lesson. This will help you focus your questions and allocate your time around the key objectives of the study.

4. Go through the lesson and choose good questions.

Select questions and activities that will help group members discover and apply the truths of the lesson. Think of specific examples you can share from your own life. Focus the lesson on the objectives you determined in step 3. Keep in mind that you want them discover and apply the truth themselves.

In Chapter 8, you'll learn how to ask good questions that target the heart and direct the discussion toward your group members experiencing Christ and real life-change. After you get a good grasp on the lesson, you can choose the various elements which make up your meeting, such as icebreakers (relationship-building activities) and prayer.

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