

# VIDEO 4: BEST PRACTICES

Elly Marroquin

As a small group leader there are some universal best practices that will help you successfully lead a small group such as creating a plan, maneuvering awkward moments, and creating space for the Holy Spirit to impact people's lives.

In part 4 of this video series, Elly Marroquin walks you through these best practices to help you confidently lead your small group.

## BEST PRACTICES FOR LEADING A SMALL GROUP

### 1. Create a plan

- Creating a plan helps you to develop continuity between meeting times, stay focused, be creative, and be confident.
- Six questions to guide your planning process
  - What passage of scripture will we be discussing?
  - What is the main idea/theme/objective?
  - What is your call to action?
  - What activities do I want to use?
  - What resources and items will I need?
  - Am I evaluating my plan before my small group time?

### 2. Lead through awkward moments

- Let's examine a few scenarios or personality traits that may lead to awkward moments in your small group:
  - The Conversation Dominator: Never discourage people from participating. Instead have a private conversation encouraging them to help you involve others in discussion.
  - The Shy Small Group: Silence is not always bad; sometimes people need time to process. Consider using open-ended questions or even pairing people for discussion as an alternative to large group discussion.
  - The Over-sharer: Always thank people for their contribution effectively validating them. Then guide those in your small group to respond either with prayer or examining the scripture. A private conversation may also be necessary as you seek to pastor that individual.
  - The Challenger: Be careful not to escalate an authority confrontation. Remind everyone that we are to build one another in discussion. Let them know you would be happy to have a conversation with them at another time to address the concern they raised. Consider bringing a pastor into that conversation.
- Remember you are not alone! Your church leadership is there to support you as a small group leader.

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## 1. Create spirit-filled moments

- Pray that you would be open to the Holy Spirit's prompting and leading in your small group as you plan (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17, ESV; Galatians 6:2, AMP).
- Plan a time for prayer in your small group. People should come to your small group expecting to pray!
- Create space to seek the gifts of the Holy Spirit for individuals in your small group (1 Corinthians 4:1).

## GROUP DISCUSSION:

### 2. As a group, create a mock plan for a small group by answering these six questions:

- What passage of scripture will we be discussing?
- What is the main idea/theme/objective?
- What is your call to action?
- What activities do I want to use?
- What resources and items will I need?
- Am I evaluating my plan before my small group time?

### 3. Have you ever led or been a part of a small group and encountered a conversation dominator, a shy small group, an over-sharer, or a challenger? How did you or the leader respond? Was the response positive or negative? How could the response be improved?

### 4. How do you plan to incorporate prayer into the routine of your small group?

### 5. Have you experienced the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Take time as a group to seek the Holy Spirit's gifts.