



Facilitating Small Groups

All it takes to lead a small group is a willingness to learn and grow with your group to discover Jesus together. No matter where a woman is spiritually, your group can be a safe place to share her life and beliefs. Below are a few tips to help you begin this journey of small group facilitation.

CREATE SPACE – Your role is to help women feel welcome.

- Designate one woman to host and another to facilitate the discussion. Provide snacks and any resources needed for the group.
- Pick an informal spot and limit distractions to foster open communication.
- As a group, decide on the frequency and length of the meeting and how you'll communicate with each other outside the group.

SET GROUP GUIDELINES – Make a safe place to share and build friendships.

- Focus on what unifies rather than divides. Try to avoid subjects that are polarizing.
- Keep what is shared in the group confidential.
- Learn from and listen to others when different beliefs and opinions are expressed. It's a chance to grow!

ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS – Draw out conversation that challenges and supports everyone.

Examples: Close-ended questions can only be answered with yes or no (“*Did you like the music?*”) vs. open-ended questions that seek more information (“*What did you enjoy about the concert tonight?*”).

LOOK – Involve everyone so the group benefits from the varied perspectives. Look for women who speak too often and for those who keep silent.

Example: “*I’d love to hear from others who haven’t shared yet.*”

LISTEN – Affirm responses and thank people for being vulnerable.

Examples: “*Thank you for sharing that story*” and “*I really appreciate your perspective.*”

LEAD – If the conversation becomes awkward, acknowledge that and direct it back on course.

Example: “*It’s OK to have different opinions, but let’s stick to what we’ve committed to talk about together so we can all participate. Do you mind if we talk about this afterward?*”

ASK HER MORE – Bring depth to the conversation by asking her to share more. It shows that you care about her.

Examples: “*That sounds really cool. What was that like?*” and “*That must have been difficult. How did you manage?*”

For additional training resources visit stonecroft.org/evangelism-tools.