

How to Lead a Small Group (Or How to Avoid Crashing and Burning When You Lead!)
Colossians 2:6-7

I. Group Activity: What Makes a Good Small Group Session the Best or the Worst?

Describe the Best	Describe the Worst	Why?

II. A (Imperfect) Model on How to Prepare:

- A. Budget your **time** before you start.
- B. Review the **material** everyone is supposed to read.
- C. Select the **highlights** you want to discuss; you only have an hour; the time will fly away.
- D. Consider your objectives: what do you want people to be able to feel, do, and know after they cover whatever content you want them to cover?
- E. Include **activites**, props, illustrations, etc. to cater to varying learning styles and varying attention spans (this time in the afternoon is a time when many people nap; what will you do to keep them away?).

III. Tips for Leading a Discussion:

- 1. We need to learn how to **facilitate** a discussion, not simply ask a question, and then wait for someone to break the awkward silence.

2. To facilitate a discussion, practice **ACTS**:

- a. Acknowledge everyone who speaks in a discussion.
- b. **Clarify** what is being said.
- c. Turn it back to the group.
- d. **Summarize** what was said.

3. If you need to disagree with someone for whatever reason, practice **ABCs**:

- a. Accept one part of what was said.
- b. **Build** upon what was said.
- c. Contrast carefully what was said.

IV. General Advice for Leading a Cell Group:

A. The leader is **responsible** for keeping the group engaged and interested.

B. The leader should consider the **group** when preparing: what activities are appropriate, feasible, sane, and biblical?

C. The leader should maintain **agility** during the discussion time; that is, if people are falling asleep, include a short activity, on the spot, if needed; if people are engaged in discussion on a particular point, then continue on!

D. Basically, **plan** as much as you can as if the entire session depends entirely on your preparation. But, remember to **pray** as if the entire session depends all on God.

V. Write down one personal and specific application you will make based on this lesson:

VI. What questions do you have?