



# Effective Group Leadership

## Group Dynamic Vignettes

Practice is often an effective teacher! To that end, give some thought to how you might address the following group dynamics. Be specific about what thoughts and feelings this would generate within you, what you would choose to say, and what scriptural or theological wisdom you can bring to the issue.

1. One person (or couple) in your group is habitually 10 to 15 minutes late, always arriving in a flurry of activity as they settle into their chairs and verbally provide a list of reasons they were “running behind.”
2. Two individuals in your group tend to dominate the conversation and direct it toward theological “rabbit trails” that are at best only tangentially related to the topic at hand. Though the subjects they bring up are interesting, they miss the main point of what you are discussing.
3. During a discussion on the Sermon on the Mount, someone asserts that this is one of the few “true sayings” of Jesus that is preserved in the Bible. They describe Jesus as a very devout man who was a good teacher, but express dismay that so many people mischaracterize him as being God because of the overly spiritualized and embellished accounts that his followers wrote after his death.
4. A group member has a strong, take-charge kind of personality, and they regularly attempt to dictate the direction of the discussion and challenge the established norms of how the group operates. You have talked to this person privately in an attempt to clarify their role in the group. However, last week they openly criticized you as the leader for taking too much time for prayer requests, and stated in front of the group that “everyone else agrees with me that we need to run things differently.”