

## GOSPEL COMMUNITY FACILITATING vs. LEADING



As you seek to come alongside and guide your Gospel Community, you might lead them in many ways. You might lead out in serving, or you might lead out in demonstrating how to be a family to one another, or you might lead out in how to confess sin. However, during the discussion portions of Gospel Community, as much as possible we want to *facilitate* and *guide* more than we want to *lead* and *teach*.

The main difference between facilitating and leading is that a leader *tells*, a facilitator *asks* (and waits!).

The following are some tips to help you facilitate GC discussion faithfully:

- Keep the GC Group Discussions on schedule. Finish all four sections - though not necessarily all questions.
- Let the text be the focus. Don't allow yourself or others to shift it for long.
- Don't be the 'answer person', be the 'guide to an answer' person.
- Prepare beforehand by studying the passage and grasping the main idea. Think of examples and applications in your own life to get the group going.
- Foster a safe environment. Manage conflict well and shut down negative remarks.
- Don't fear silence. Wait 20 seconds for someone to respond. This will feel much longer than you think.
- Once someone has answered, think about other open-ended questions to ask to further expound on their response.
- Respond to questions by asking the group, "What are some thoughts on that question?" or "Is there anything in the text/in scripture that helps us answer that?"
- If a question is unclear, ask them to rephrase it.
- Respond to "strange" answers by asking, "Help us understand what you're thinking."
- Respond to answers that are unorthodox or wrong by asking the group, "What do others think", or, "Where do we find that in scripture." Use discernment here. It might be best to move on and discuss privately with the person later.
- Look for nonverbal clues in the group. Respond accordingly.
- Help clarify a question or response by re-stating; "So what I heard you asking/saying was..."
- When someone continues talking for too long, look for a way to transition to the next question in what they're saying. Or simply acknowledge their statements when you can break-in and thank them for it as you move to another question.
- Keep the discussion on-topic, but use discernment. Some tangents might be helpful for the group and the Spirit could use them for good.