

Best Practices for Leading a Small Group

- **Know everybody's name:** If there is a new person, be mindful of them. Let the ice-breaker be a chance to introduce yourself, get to know the new person, and for them to learn everyone's name.
- **Be prepared:** Review the Leader Guide and/or Discussion Questions ahead of time.
- **The questions are a guide, not a script:** The questions are meant to jumpstart conversations that are on topic. Don't feel like you have to answer each question, but also make sure you're staying on topic.
- **Never be the first person to answer a question:** Sometimes letting the silence carry is the best thing you can do for your group.
- **The smaller the groups, the better:** If you have multiple small group leaders, consider splitting your group in half for more fruitful dialogue.
- **Define who leads the discussion:** This person can change week to week, but it's helpful when one person carries the conversation and the other leaders support as needed.
- **"I don't know" can be the best answer:** Saying you don't know will help them realize they don't need to have all of the answers. But don't leave it at that - try to find the answer and get back with that student the next time you see them.
- **Have fun!:** Your students will learn to trust you when you learn to have fun with them. This is all about relationship building and if you're not having fun, then find ways to make it fun.