Introduction: Engage your group by stimulating curiosity.

Read the following African proverb to your group:

“When there is no enemy within, the enemies outside cannot hurt you.”

Ask group members to comment on the statement and to list some internal enemies. Allow time for 2-3 people to share.

Point 1: Help group members connect with the major theme by looking at a New Testament passage.

This section emphasizes God’s call on Rahab, one whom the world considers unworthy. Instruct group members to read 1 Corinthians 1:20-31 and ask them to record 3-5 thoughts Paul advances concerning this issue. Then allow a few people to give their conclusions to the group.

Point 3: Stimulate group members’ thinking by relating to a common subject.

In the United States of America, there are fifty individual states that have agreed to be incorporated as a federal republic. For group members who are natural-born American citizens, ask them to share in which state they were born. In some cases, you might have a diversity of birth states. Then ask, “What are some differences among the states?” Finally, “How can people from different ethnicities and backgrounds unite?”

Include any members who might not have been born in the United States in the discussion by encouraging them to add their perspective. Ask them how they can feel united with people who happened not to be born in the same country.

Conclusion: Engage using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.

Put the following into your own words as you instruct the group: “Think for 30 seconds about modern-day outcasts. Name some social outcasts and undesirable groups. How can we intentionally reach them with the gospel? Now I want you to discuss this in pairs with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to share one idea.
Teaching Tip of the Week

Norman Cousins writes, “If we have learned anything else, it is that the ideas of the poets and artists penetrate where everything else has failed.” We have a tendency as teachers to focus primarily on the facts and ignore the imagination. If we can engage the imagination of our group members by painting word pictures, using music, or something else that appeals to their imaginations, we will not only affect their heads but also their hearts. And isn’t the goal of all good teaching life change? Think about what you can do this week to implement this in how you present the session content as well as your general approach to teaching.

[Source: Norman Cousins, Human Options (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1981), 100.]