Introduction: Engage the group by emphasizing the main theme.

Write the following poem on the board before your group members arrive. When the meeting begins, ask them to comment on it:

Redemption’s price our Savior paid  
When all our sins on Him were laid;  
He took our guilt, He bore our shame  
That we may glorify His name.


Point 1: Engage their thinking by using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.

Show your group members the video “Sacrifice & Atonement” (6 minutes, 50 seconds): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_OlRWGLdnw

Think-Pair-Share: After your group members watch the video, ask them to think about the following questions: “What is the worth of a single person to God? What does ransom mean?” Then say, “Think for 30 seconds about these questions. 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.

Point 2: Engage your group with an article.

Enlist a volunteer to read the following article aloud to the group:

It’s All About Him

When Sheri got engaged, her single friend Amy celebrated with her. She planned a bridal shower, helped pick out her wedding dress, walked down the aisle just before her, and stood by her side during the ceremony. When
Sheri and her husband had children, Amy gave baby showers and rejoiced in her friend’s blessings.

Sheri told Amy later, “You’ve comforted me during hard times, but the way I especially know you love me is that you rejoice with me in my good times. You haven’t let any jealousy hold you back from celebrating with me.”

When John’s disciples heard that a new rabbi named Jesus was gaining followers, they thought John might be jealous (John 3:26). They came to him and said, “He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!” But John celebrated Jesus’ ministry. He said, “I have been sent before Him … The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled” (vv. 28-29).

An attitude of humility should also characterize us. Rather than desiring attention for ourselves, everything we do should bring glory to our Savior. “He must increase, but I must decrease” (v. 30).”

Ask your students why it is important for us to focus on the Lord and others in order for us to truly be joyful. Allow 2 or 3 to share their insights.


**Point 3: Stimulate your group members with a song.**

The main precept we focus on in this section is Jesus as the Son who, because of His death and resurrection, gives eternal life to those who believe. Play the song “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (4 minutes, 20 seconds): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tkx8WAycYAc

As group members listen, instruct them to jot down 1-2 ideas that they glean from this song about Christ’s death. Ask 2-3 members to share their insights.
Conclusion: Engage using “Think-Pair-Share” technique.

Put the following into your own words: “Think for 30 seconds about the following instruction and question: Name some modern 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

“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 your session.