

Discussion Guidelines

It is not easy to develop an environment that helps us open up and be challenged in positive ways to continue learning how to follow Jesus Christ. Because of that fact, we want to work hard as group leaders to create a place where people can feel safe to truly share what God is doing in their lives. This is the best way to invite ourselves and others into further transformation in Jesus Christ. The following are a list of discussion guidelines we will use each week to help our groups develop a healthy approach to biblical discussion:

Safe Group

We will do our part to create an environment where everyone feels safe to be real, open, and honest with their struggles and victories in following Jesus. We also take the time necessary to allow everyone the opportunity to share.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is very important for people to have the confidence to share. Whatever is said in the group we will commit to keep in the group.

Listening, Pausing, Silence

We want to practice active listening that values those who are sharing. We will pause to give ourselves and others time to process and share before moving on. We will practice silence as an important tool to allow questions and thoughts to sink in.

No Cross Talk

We will be considerate of others and avoid talking over them or having side conversations with others during the discussion time.

No Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; the Lord does that work in our lives. We will resist the urge to solve someone else's problems and give advice, rather than simply encouraging them and pointing to Jesus.

Use "I" Statements

When sharing, we will learn to use "I" statements instead of focusing on "them," "they," "us," "the church," or "the culture." We want to make application of the truth we hear from the Scriptures personal and not deflect to others.

Conflict Resolution

As a part of the body of Christ, we want to resolve any conflict in the group in a biblical way.