

6 Habits of Great Small Group Leaders

Practice these habits to help you build deep community in your group.

1. Don't Do All The Talking

The best leaders *facilitate* conversations rather than dispensing information. Strive to facilitate the conversation and keep it moving from member to member rather than talking to the members. Adhere to the 70/30 rule, where goal is to have group members talk 70% of the time.

2. Be Comfortable With Silence

Embrace the 15 seconds of silence which seems to be like an eternity. Realize that through silence, the Holy Spirit is working on people. Learn to be comfortable with the silence.

3. Be A Good Listener

So simple yet so hard to do. Don't just listen – actively listen. James 1:19 tells us to be slow to speak and quick to listen. The best leaders listen with their eyes and ears. This is even more critical in an online group.

4. Try To Involve Everyone

Ask the quieter people in your group if they have anything they would like to share. You might have to say something like this: "On this next question let's hear from someone who hasn't shared yet."

5. The Focus Is Not On Getting Through The Material

If you are very task-oriented, you may tend to concentrate more on getting through study than allowing group members the time they need to discuss, process, and grow with the information.

6. Pray

Pray before your group meeting, after your group meeting, and during your group meeting. Pray in between group meetings. Ask God for his help and leading. It is helpful to make a list of prayer requests and keep them on a bedside table so you can be very specific in your prayer request.