



Frequently Asked Questions

What if I don't know the answer to a question?

That's okay! Nobody has all the answers and it's not your job as a group leader to answer everyone's questions, it's your job to facilitate a great discussion. If someone asks a difficult question here are some things you might look to do:

- Think "bullseye". Is this a question about a belief we would consider a "die for", or is it a question that would be more in the "defend" or "discuss" category? If it's not a "die for", consider tabling the question or affirm the person who asked it, but let them know that you aren't going to talk about that question in your group.
- Visit gotquestions.org. Got Questions is an excellent resource that you can type a question into and be given dozens of answers. This is a great option if someone asks a question that you don't know the answer to, and you can respond by saying, "That's a great question! Let me do some research this week and I'll get back to you at our next meeting."

What do I do if I have someone who talks too much or not at all?

This is not uncommon at all; however, it is important that you address the situation before it begins to impact your group members. Here are some things you can do:

- If you have someone who is dominating the conversation, is always the first person to talk, or is cutting other people off, set some time to meet with them 1:1 to discuss it with them. Most of the time, they don't even realize they are doing it. Encourage them to not be the first person to chime in, or to even encourage them to ask other people what they think after a question is asked. However, if the individual continues this behavior even after a conversation, bring the issue to a pastor at your campus or your volunteer director.
- If you have someone who never says anything, when asking a question, ask them their thoughts after some others have shared. You can say, "Those were all great answers, name what do you think?" Meeting with them 1:1 to learn more about their story is also a great idea. Oftentimes, people who don't share think their answers or ideas are "dumb" or people will disagree or not like their answers. Encourage them that that is not the case and their input is just as valuable as everyone else's.



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What do I do if someone brings up a hot topic?

Sometimes someone will want to bring up a “hot topic” and want other group members opinions on the issue. This could include questions regarding sexuality and marriage, abortion, race, or political issues. If someone in your group raises one of these questions, here are some things you can do:

- Remind the group of the group expectations. Group meetings are not a place where politics or other topics not related to your study are to be discussed. People are there to be encouraged, find accountability, and to grow in their faith.
- Remind people of the “bullseye”. If someone brings up an issue that is not in our “die for” beliefs, gently bring that up to the individual. Sometime after group, discuss with that individual 1:1 about the bullseye and remind them that group meetings are not a place for these issues to be discussed. Encourage them to bring their question to a pastor at church if they want to discuss the topic.
- Get a pastor or director involved. If someone continues to bring hot topics to the group after you’ve met with them 1:1, let your pastor or director know so they can meet with the individual.

What should I do if there’s a care need in the group?

A group gives a unique opportunity for you as the leader to care for the members, but also for the members of the group to care for each other. So, we need to understand that there are levels of care that should dictate our response:

- Concerns the group can handle. This includes situations such as
- Concerns where you should involve a pastor. This includes situations such as If you know of any of these concerns, get a pastor involved right away. Our pastors are trained and prepared to care for individuals going through difficult situations.
- Concerns that need to be addressed by a professional. This includes situations such as You may need to get a pastor involved here too, but if someone is talking about suicidal ideation or discloses they are in an unsafe situation, get authorities involved.