

FACILITATOR'S NOTE:

How To Prepare for Leading Your Group:¹

- Dedicate some time before leading to pray for your group and arrange the discussion questions in a way that suits their needs and the time given to meet.
- Review the Bible verses and “Big Idea” of the message to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week’s message.
- Use the discussion questions as a template. **You do not need to use all the questions given.** Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion in a way that honours God, engages the group and helps your group apply the Bible passage and the speakers “big idea” to their life.
- You are not the answer. Your responsibility is to facilitate the discussion and keep it on track. The questions are meant to spark conversation as your group interacts with the content of the message. Encourage interaction with the content as opposed to “answers” to the questions. It is ok to disagree and have different views in a way that honours God and values your group members’ **own journey with God.**

How To Use the Discussion Questions:

- Start your groups discussion with the “Check-in” question to help your members reflect on their week and follow up on last week’s message. It is ok if no one remembers the last week or applied the content. The weekly reminder for feedback may lead to application becoming a habit.
- Read this week’s scripture passages **together** (ask for volunteers) and guide your group through the “discuss” questions to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week’s message/passage.
- Move your group discussion to a deeper level by leading them through questions in the “apply” section. Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the **needs and dynamics** of your group, moving from ideas about the message to the application of the message to your members life/current circumstances.
- Connect with God together as a group through prayer. This can be in the form of **prayer requests or prayer practices.**
- If you routinely do not have enough time to pray together, **try starting your meeting with the prayer section.** Many leaders have found that giving the group a cut off time to end the discussion (set a timer) and transition to prayer is very effective for time management (usually the last half hour of the meeting).
- Prayer is so key to the application of the passage and transitioning the message from the head to the heart. An open honest time of prayer will help members in your group feel cared for and more involved.
- Commitment to a time of prayer together as a group is key to a healthy group experience, spiritual growth, and the application of Scripture.

¹ For more resources on care and prayer, check out the Slack channels.