

Life Group Challenges

The Advice Giver

- Start prayer time by reminding everyone that it's prayer time, not advice or solution time.
- If advice happens anyway, it's okay for a bit but then interrupt by simply saying, 'okay, we'll definitely pray for that. NEXT!' or 'thanks for the ideas, let's pray for God's guidance for so-and-so about that.'
- Be sensitive to the fact that maybe people are giving the advice because the prayer request has been mentioned so often the group is tired of it!
- Have a solo conversation, that is, speak to the person privately

The Talkative Person

- Sit beside them during the meeting (makes it harder for them to make eye contact with you and thus get the floor)
- As you ask the next question say, 'let's have someone who hasn't shared yet.'
- Call on others by name.
- Interrupt 'Talkative' and ask others for their thoughts about what has been said so far
- Have that solo conversation

The Long Prayer Request

- Allow it once or twice
- Start with the person next to them and go in the opposite direction
- Sum up last week's request and ask if there's any update
- Telephone them beforehand for a 'solo' update which you can then give in summary to the group
- Occasionally only have prayers of praise, thanks or confession
- Have the solo conversation

Crickets (*your discussion question is met with silence*)

- Is the answer too obvious? Avoid questions that are too easy (ex. 'yes/no,' or the 'God/Jesus/the Bible' kinds of questions)
- The question is about an obscure fact ('who was the 7th king of the Southern Kingdom?'), ask such questions only rarely and IF the answer is very interesting
- Perhaps you're answering your own questions too often?
- Let the silence linger longer
- Rephrase the question if necessary
- If the question requires being vulnerable, after trying the above tactics, perhaps answer yourself in order to lead by example

Sharing is Superficial

- Give it time, it takes a while for a group to build trust
- Lead the way by sharing how the study applies to you
- Share personal prayer requests yourself
- Enlist a group member to do the same
- Have a study that discusses the importance of personal application

- Pray for God's work in them individually
- Spend time with them individually

When Even I (*the leader*) Don't Want to Go to Life Group!

- Remember everyone feels this way at times
- Reflect on the good that is taking place in people's lives
- Be sure you're delegating so you're not overwhelmed
- Ask why you're feeling this way and respond accordingly
- Talk to another leader/Kevin
- Remember no one leads a Life Group forever
- Pray for perseverance/wisdom/discernment