

# *Best Practices for Leading Group Discussion*

## **In Preparation**

- Watch/listen to the sermon.
- Take Notes – what do you find interesting, challenging, confusing?
- Preview Questions – review discussion questions in advance and tailor them to best fit your group.
- Provide questions (either paper or digitally) for your group to help members stay engaged in the discussion.

## **Discussion Tips**

- Be comfortable with silence – it allows people to process.
- Ask follow-up questions – “What do you mean?”, “Anyone else?”, “Tell me more.”
- Affirm others whenever you can.
- Involve everyone – the more people involved the better. Ask “who hasn’t shared yet?”
- Keep the discussion outsider-friendly. Don’t use insider or super-spiritual language.
- Begin and end the discussion on time. Always leave time for personal sharing and prayer.
- Don’t focus on getting through all the questions.
- Make sure discussion leads to application.
- Allow others to facilitate and ask questions. Always be looking for who you can raise up to lead.
- Get feedback. Always look for ways to improve.