

EMPOWERING INTERACTION

-Adapted from North Coast Church-

DIFFERENT WAYS TO INTERACT WITH THE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Anyone answers

Simply read the question and follow up with “Does anyone want to share their thoughts/answers for question two”?

This can be good to get the energy going in your group, but it can be dangerous if you have a dominant talker.

2. Go around the circle

This approach helps other people get ready to answer the question for themselves. Also, you get a chance to hear from everybody.

3. Directed at one person

“Hey Jim, what did you answer for question 3” or “Brian, do you have anything to add to that?”)

This approach works well when you have a comfort level with the group. You can also let the group know at the start of your discussion time that you will be calling on individuals to answer the questions.

4. Ask questions with a time limit

“Hey Jim, can you take 30 seconds to a minute and share with us what you answered for question three”? “Let's take a minute here...take a couple minutes...share for 30 seconds”.

This approach works well with larger groups that have “dominant talkers”.

5. Short one-on-one discussion before large group discussion

"Talk to the person next to you/to your left". Discuss question one for 2 minutes, and then we'll circle back and share our answers".

This approach accomplishes two things:

- prepares people to answer the questions more succinctly*
- gives the "timid sharer" a chance to warm up before the large group discussion.*

REMINDER:

The goal of our discussion time is to hear from everyone else, not just ourselves.

Leader Tip

Don't feel pressured to answer every question. Some nights you will, but other nights you may only cover one question. Let the richness of the discussion dictate how many questions you cover.

Group Size Dynamics

Consider the size of your group as you approach the discussion portion of your meeting. You have the freedom to change the way you lead the discussion portion of your weekly meeting based on group size.

16 + = A large group

12-14 = Ideal group size

8-10 = Optimal group size for deeper discussion