

Leading a Small Group Discussion

1. Prepare

Work through the materials and think yourself into your group meeting.

2. Pray

Pray before your group meeting.

3. Don't talk too much

Your job is to get people thinking and talking and keep the discussion moving from member to member rather than talking to the members.

4. Be A Good Listener

So simple yet so hard to do. Don't just listen to what people are saying – actively listen. The best leaders listen with their eyes and ears.

4. Don't Answer Your Own Questions

The whole purpose of asking the question is to create an environment where group members feel safe to share. It's not about getting the right answer. When people are silent with some of these questions, embrace the silence: this might be where the introverts are thinking and the Holy Spirit is speaking!

5. Encourage Responses

If no one really speaks you could say something like, "Paul, you look like you were going to say something..."

6. Ask Open-Ended Questions

Open-ended questions help group members to say more than a simple yes or no. Use 'what?' or 'how?' questions to get people to open up.

7. Try To Involve Everyone

Your group might be too big if everyone isn't able to speak their thoughts. Groups of over eight members will have difficulty doing this. In those cases, it might be best to divide the group into smaller groups for some of the time.

8. Keep the Main Thing, the Main Thing!

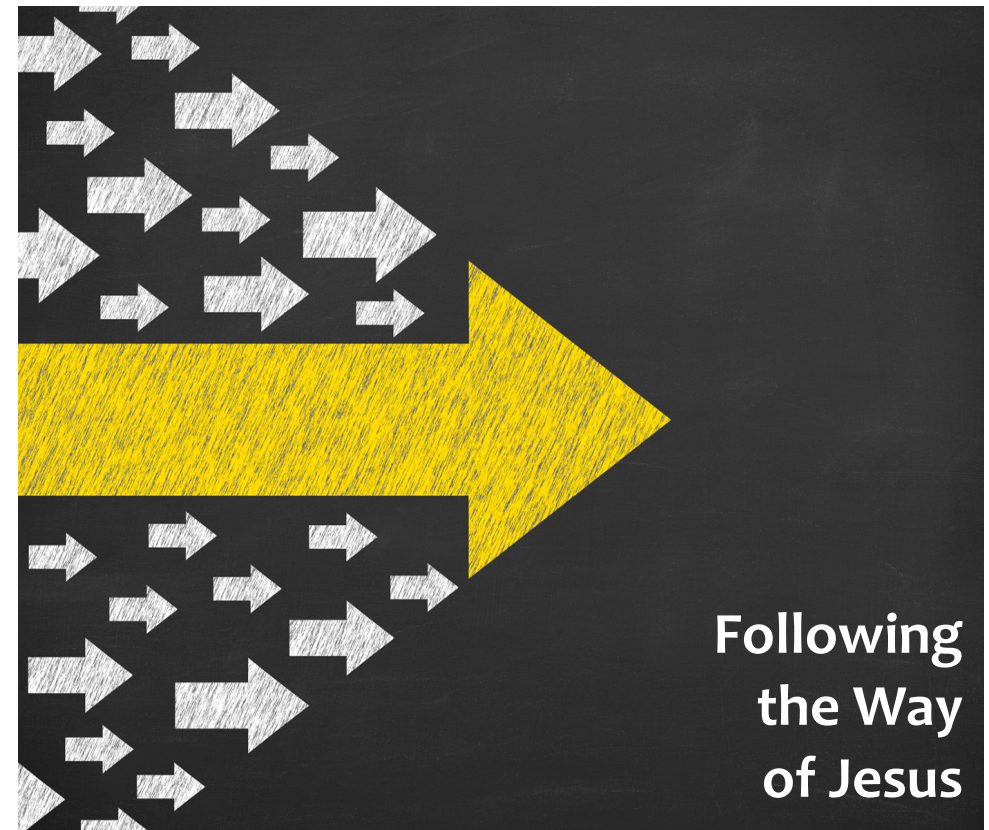
Remember, the focus is not on getting through the material and you may not cover all the questions. If the discussion is fruitful then allow group members the time they need to discuss, process, and grow with the information.

9. Manage the Time

Keep an eye on the clock. Don't let things get bogged down in interesting but irrelevant discussion. Bring things back on track and take the initiative to move things on when it feels right.

10. Leave time for application.

Make sure people have time to think about the difference that this discussion will have in their daily 'frontline' lives.



Discussion Guides for Small Groups

6. Following the Way of Jesus: The Way of Worship

WAY IN

Ask each person what is the first word that comes to mind when they hear the word 'worship'?

us broaden our understanding of 'true worship'?

- Matthew 2:11
- Matthew 4:8-10
- Matthew 14:33

can. Do some have the word 'worship' and some have 'service' in verse 1?

- How can our *service* for God, also be our *worship*?
- Can *anything* we do be an act of worship? (see Colossians 3:17)?
- How can our work be worship?

WAY OUT

What single step would help each person become a 'true worshipper'?

Pray for one another.

Read John 4:19-26

Key Text: John 4:24

God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.'

4. If worship 'in spirit' is a heart-to-heart expression of adoration to God, how can I prepare to be a worshipper?
 - Does Matthew 5:23 give us any clue?

DISCUSS

1. The Samaritans and Jews had different views about 'correct' ways to worship (20). Are there contemporary ways that this kind of debate still continues?
2. Jesus talks to the woman about 'true worshippers'. What do you think he means? What is a 'false worshipper'?
3. We often make the mistake of equating 'worship' with 'singing'. How do these verses help
5. With your discussion so far in mind, how would you define 'Christian worship' to a new Christian. Try to arrive at a group definition.
6. In the verses we have looked at so far the Greek word translated as 'worship' is *proskyneō* and it means to approach and bow before someone with reverence. There is another word commonly translated as 'worship': it is the Greek word *latrueō*. It has a different meaning, which could be translated as 'service'. read Romans 12:1,2. Read it in different Bible versions if you

Commentary Notes: John 4:22-24

True worship, says Jesus, is in spirit and truth. The "truth" part is plain enough — with the coming of Jesus, that truth centres on his person and work, the one who is himself "the Truth" (John 14:6) and the message about his saving accomplishments for us, which is "the word of the truth, the gospel" (Colossians 1:5). It is this "word of truth" (James 1:18) by which we're given new birth, this "word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15) that Christian workers endeavour to handle aright, and this truth that anchors and saturates worship that is truly Christian.

"True worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine."

But what about "spirit"? Is this our spirit or God's Spirit? Jesus's memorable statement in John 3:6 helps: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." It's not either-or, but both-and. For those who are new creatures in Christ, our spirit owes its existence and vibrancy to the Spirit of God. As John Piper writes, "True worship comes only from spirits made alive and sensitive by the quickening of the Spirit of God" (Desiring God, 82). God's Spirit ignites and energizes our spirit.