



THINGS YOU MIGHT FACE

Chances are, you're going to run into some awkward or uncomfortable situations while facilitating a Group. That's OK! That's part of being a human. Here are a few scenarios you might face, and a few ideas on how to remedy them.

Questions that you don't know how to answer...

If you don't know how to answer a specific question, it doesn't make you a bad leader. There are plenty of questions to which we do not have answers. Just respond by saying that you do not know, or that you will have to look into it. Don't let pride get the best of you. Giving an answer just for the sake of answering is not always beneficial.

A lack of interest...

There are going to be times when it appears your Group would rather be doing anything else but engaging in discussion. Don't panic. Be flexible. In these moments, avoid busting out the whip! This will only drive them away. Be creative. Change gears. Let the Group run wild for a bit. Laugh and enjoy life together.

Inconsistency in attendance...

Let's face it. People in your Group might not show up every week. Some weeks you will have everyone attend. Some weeks you might be a loner. Don't be discouraged; this is the state of the culture we live in. Let this be fuel for more faithfulness and consistency. Keep pressing on! Follow up with those who could not make it. Let them know you missed them.

Comments or thoughts that are completely untrue or misleading...

Believe it or not there will be some strange ideas presented in your Group. Borderline heresy. Things that make you go, "hmmm..." Don't panic! We all have contributed to this at times. Stay away from scolding or making anyone feel silly. Rather, ask what others think about it. Ask clarifying questions, and share wisdom when necessary. Many times, a Group will self-correct without the leader needing to say something. We are all in process, so realize that it may get a little messy. If you need help, it is ok to ask for it!

"Me" monsters...

You just might run into individuals that think the sole purpose of the Group meeting is to air their dirty laundry and seek attention. There is some space for this, but if the issue becomes overbearing, it can be detrimental to the rest of the Group's experience. This is a difficult situation that is incredibly important to lead through. Sometimes our sin or our personal issues take center stage instead of our Savior and Healer Jesus Christ.

A few suggestions:

- 1) **Sit next to or across from this person during the Group.** Many times this is a great solution and will keep them focused.
- 2) **Find time to meet one-on-one.** Help the individual unpack things in a healthy manner apart from the Group.
- 3) **If things don't change, you may need to address the issue directly with the individual.** Remember, you are following the leadership of Jesus, so speak the truth in grace and love. Handling the issue is worth it for the health of the entire Group. Remind them of the groups purpose - to learn and grow together. Reassure them that their situation matters, but it might need to be addressed in other outlets (counseling, pastoral meeting, etc.)