

# Trouble-Shooting Group Discussion Issues

## Constant Talker:

- Ask, “What does someone else think?”
- Use body language to address other people.
- Direct questions to other people by name.
- Talk privately with the person and ask them to help get others involved.

## Some People Never Talk:

- Ask easier questions.
- Direct easy questions their way.
- Enlist the help of other group members to draw them out.
- Express appreciation (both publicly and privately) for the contributions they make.

## The Group Is Not engaging in the Discussion:

- Play “Devil’s Advocate.”
- Ask “Why?” questions.

## A Group Member Reaches an Obviously Wrong Conclusion:

- Ask, “What does someone else think?”
- Redirect their attention to Scripture which leads to a correct conclusion.
- Speak with them one-on-one if the wrong conclusion is still held.

## The Group Drifts into Irrelevant Tangents:

- Be flexible; sometimes the issues need to be discussed even though they are not scheduled.
- Explicitly bring the discussion back on topic.
- Agree to discuss the topic at a later date.

## A Difficult Question Is Raised:

- Don’t be afraid to say, “I don’t’ know.”
- Agree to research the question and bring an answer next time.

## A Controversial Question Is Raised:

- Set ground rules before the discussion begins.
- Acknowledge that Christians hold different views on a variety of topics.
- Scripture must substantiate all viewpoints.
- We are not going to settle this question for all Christians for all time in this one discussion.
- Focus on what the divergent opinions have in common.