

## **What do you do when....?**

### **You get off track:**

- Verbally draw attention to the fact that you are on a tangent.
- Say, 'this is interesting, however, we've left our topic. Let's discuss this afterwards.'
- Use a thought-provoking question to draw the group back to the topic.
- Be respectful of each person's opinion.

### **The answer is wrong:**

- Never tell a group member they are wrong,
- When something is said that you are quite sure is unbiblical or wrong, solicit another viewpoint from the group.
- Say: "OK, what do others think?" or "Does anyone know other scriptures that might help us here?"
- Re-state the issue or ask another clarifying question.
- Never allow anyone to lose 'face' or become embarrassed for answering incorrectly.

### **Difficult questions arise:**

- Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know"
- Don't pretend to know what you don't know!
- Tell the group that you will look up the answer for the next meeting-or ask a group member to research it.

### **You don't get through the material:**

- Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Getting through the material is not always the only goal.
- Stay away from minor details and 'rabbit trails' that bog you down.
- Keep moving
- Cut back

### **The group is dull:**

- Make sure you have an enthusiastic attitude. Pray for enthusiasm. Desire to know God and His Word will reflect in how you lead.
- Make sure you are prepared.
- Ask God how you might be more creative in your leading
- Break people into groups of two and assign them each a question to discuss.

### **It's time to apply the Scripture to their lives:**

- Believe that God will speak through His word
- Ask God to give you the wisdom to point out the relevance of the text to each life.
- Use effective application questions.
- Share your own application plans honestly and humbly.
- Be open and others will be encouraged to be open.

### **You are being criticized:**

- Ask God to guide your response to the criticism and to teach you through it
- Don't become defensive
- Listen to what they have to say
- Identify your own weaknesses and blind spots
- Prayerfully decide what response is needed
- Carefully determine how you will respond

### **You need to confront someone:**

- Examine your motives
- Pray for wisdom and courage to speak
- Speak the truth in love
- Speak directly to the person involved
- Be honest, objective, specific and positive
- Give opportunity for resolution and closure