

Small Group Discussion Time

1. The first time, read the instructions at the top of the page.
2. Then read the first statement and ask one of the group "What's your impression?"
3. After choosing their response from the list ask them, "What... How... or Why... etc.
 - ie. **If** they say, "That inspires me," you might ask, "What about that do you find inspiring?"
If they say, "It's hard to grasp," you might say, "What part is hard to grasp?"
If they say, "I'm excited!" you might say, "Why does that excite you?" (use Why? very sparingly)
4. After they give their answer, affirm them.
 - ie. **If** they say, "That inspires me because I didn't know that God loves me so much," you might say, "What a wonderful realization Sue, to know in your own heart that you are personally loved?"
If they say, "It's hard to grasp because I've always been taught that people go to heaven or hell immediately when they die," you might say, "That is indeed what many us of were taught isn't it Bob, but now we can see from scripture that our final destination happens later doesn't it?"
If they say, "I'm excited to learn Saturday is the Sabbath because I finally get a day off! You might follow up with, "Well, I can see you are making a great choice to follow where you see Jesus clearly leading."

So in summary it is

1. Impression
2. Elaborate
3. Affirm

A few tips:

1. Don't start and end with the same people. Mix it up.
2. Give your impression last.
3. Don't spend much time pontificating or preaching. Listen to their heart.
4. If a hard question gets asked that is relevant to the topic at hand that you can't answer you can
 - a. Ask the group if anyone has a ready answer.
 - b. Look up the verses at the end of the statement and follow up with, "What does this verse say?"
 - c. Affirm the question and ask for time to research the answer.
5. If a hard question gets asked that is NOT relevant to the topic at hand but will be covered in an up coming lesson, affirm the question and say, "That's a great question. That is actually something Jesus personally talked about. In fact that is so important we've devoted a whole lesson to that topic.
6. Keep the lesson and answer time to one hour. It's always best to leave them wanting more.