

M28 Guidelines

Group Guidelines

1. Everyone shares in **sentences, not paragraphs** (avoids anyone dominating the discussion).
2. Focus only on what **this passage** is saying (not other passages).
3. Focus only on what **this group** is seeing (not other people's perspective or outside sources).
4. Give people **time** to respond (don't be afraid of silence, but allow people to "pass" if they wish).

Facilitator Guidelines

1. **Facilitate**, don't teach (using the Facilitator Guide).
2. **Keep the session on schedule—Complete all sections.** (25% Connect, 50% Discover, and 25% Respond).
3. **For questions about the passage: "What in this passage helps us answer that question?"** (The goal is to help the group see that everyone can understand the Bible.)
4. **For questions NOT about the passage: "Let's discuss this further after our group time" or, "Let's do a separate session at another time on a passage that answers that question."**
5. **"Strange" or "wrong" interpretations or discussions: "Where is that found in this passage?"** Ask the group if they see the same thing (builds an environment of self-correction). Remember, **"The goal for today is to focus on what this passage has to say."**
6. **Close the group to new people after the second or third week.** If people want to bring other people after that, help them start a new group.