TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE

for common Life Group scenarios

Someone has a hard time opening up

OPTIONS:

1. Take some time as a leader to talk one-on-one with this person.
2. Invite them to share and state again the commitment that we will make Life Group a safe place.
3. Create smaller groups from time to time for this person to share in.
4. Take some time to call this person and let them know you are glad they come to your Life Group. This may help them feel a part of the group and help them feel safer.

Someone is dominating group discussion

OPTIONS:

1. Take some time to get to know this person. It could be that this person is a natural leader who needs some coaching on how to balance their leadership and people skills.
2. Remind them that their style can come across as challenging to people in the group. Ask them to monitor themselves.
3. Take them aside and let them know you see leadership gifts and skills in them and would they like to work with you as a leader apprentice so that in the future they could have their own group.

You have an EGR (Extra Grace Required)

OPTIONS:

1. It is important to establish clear boundaries with the person early.
2. Address the situation. Pull them aside and gently bring the situation to their attention with a suggestion and an offer to help solve it. Let them know you are bringing the issue up because you love them.
3. Understand that some issues such as sexual abuse, alcoholism or drug abuse require professional help. Help that person get in touch with the appropriate resources that can truly help them.

Someone leads the conversation off track every week

OPTIONS:

1. Immediately following the person's response redirect the group back to the original question by restating it.
2. Have a private chat and bring the matter to the person's attention. Ask them to stick to the subject at hand when they respond to a question.
3. When the person's response derails or gets off track, redirect them, even if you have to gently cut the person off.

The group takes a long time with prayer requests

OPTIONS:

1. Break down Life Group into smaller groups so that people can share and take time to pray.
2. Suggest that along with the study guide each person bring a prayer request written on a 3 x 5 card. Exchange cards and pray.
3. Have people share their request while praying.
4. Explain what "Topical Prayer" is and then walk the group through praying that way.

Someone is talking too much

OPTIONS:

1. Take this person aside and address the issue. Explain to them that when any one person dominates the discussion it doesn't allow those who are more introverted to share. Ask them to limit their input.
2. Share what the vision of Life Group is and help them contribute accordingly.
3. After you pose the question, ask someone else specifically to answer so the talker doesn't have time to interject.

You have a critical person in your group

OPTIONS:

1. Take the person aside and remind them of the consequences of a critical spirit.
2. Help this person to see that their critical spirit hurts people and doesn't help make Life Group a safe place to build healthy relationships.

Someone rarely does their study guide

OPTIONS:

1. Offer to meet before Life Group and do the study guide together over coffee or dinner.
2. Discuss the study guide questions with the group in such a way that they need to do the questions. Doing this consistently sends a message to the group that doing the study guide is important.
3. Explain that the study guide is one key element of why we meet as a Life Group.
4. Remind them they agreed to a commitment to do home work from the Weekend teaching.
5. Don't let them share from any question unanswered from their study guide. Make it fun and not a disgraceful thing.

Someone is consistently late to the group

OPTIONS:

1. Address that person in private. Ask them what keeps them from getting to Life Group on time and how you or the Life Group can help them make it there on time. They might have a very legitimate reason. If so, ask their permission to share that reason with the rest of the group so that everyone is aware of what is happening.
2. Remind the group of the starting time.
3. Explain to this person how being on time shows respect to everyone in the group.