

# Leading Group Discussion

*Here are some guidelines if you do not have much experience in leading discussion.*

- Don't talk too much yourself! You should ask questions, not give a lecture. Adults learn more this way and they enjoy it more. Good questions should:
  - be easy to understand
  - be relevant to the lesson
  - open up discussion (not close it off with a one word answer like 'yes' or 'no')
- Give an opportunity for every member to take part in discussion. Ask the talkative ones not to speak too much. Help the shy ones by asking them easy questions (and don't allow others to answer on their behalf.)
- If group members cannot understand a question, do not give the answer yourself, but ask the same question again in a different way.
- Don't let the discussion stray away from the main point.
- If a member gives an answer which is 'wrong' or does not help the discussion, do not shame them by saying 'you are wrong'. Instead, ask what other members think. Usually they will give a better answer. Or you can say, 'Thank you for your contribution, which we appreciate, but have you considered this aspect too?'
- Concentrate on the practical aspect of each lesson, so that each member of the group goes away with something to apply to his or her life.
- Let the members ask you questions. If you don't know the answer, tell them you will find out before the next meeting. They will respect you more for this than if you pretend to know the answer. Make sure that you fulfil this promise by bringing your answer to the next meeting.
- When it's time to read out a Bible verse or a section from the course book, ask one member to do so. This gives them more chance to be actively involved. It is a good way to get shy members to take part in discussion.