



Training Conference

Leading Bible Studies

Session 12: Caring for Your Group

- I. RUF's Four F's: Faithful, Flexible, Free, Fearless
- II. Faithful: to care for the group as individuals and as a group
 - A. Takes organization of material and of leaders (if co-teaching, consider meeting with the group leaders before the group to invite and go over the prepared leaders questions)
 1. Makes sure everyone is being invited
 2. Helps reword/sharpen questions
 3. Helps younger leaders, and sharpens your skills
 - B. Social
 1. Meet outside of the Bible study time: off weeks, other social events
 2. Ice breaker/announcements during the study, etc.
 - C. One-ones and group dynamics: intentionality
 1. Meet with/contact people outside the Bible study time
 - a) Invite before the study; to other RUF events
 - b) Thank them after they come for the first time
 - c) Thank/encourage them for their participation
 - d) Generally get to know them
 - e) See handout "The People in Your Bible Study"
 2. The more you know your individuals, the better your prepared questions will be; the more you can move along discussion

- III. Flexible: to change the group based on what they need
 - A. Be willing to change the order or the prepared questions based on the conversation
 - 1. Remember the goal of discussion and questions between members
 - 2. This will get easier with experience
 - 3. See handout “Sharpening Your Questions”
 - B. The layout (ex. a group of 18 broken into smaller groups for application and prayer)
- IV. Free: to know and to be yourself
 - A. Leadership style
 - 1. Warm vs. edgy
 - 2. Consensus, command, friendship, rules, expertise, organizational
 - 3. Introvert vs. extrovert
 - B. Sometimes you have to fight against your tendencies (ex. breathe/count to 10 if you have a tendency to answer your own questions)
- V. Fearless: to move toward others with love and genuine care
 - A. Prayer/vulnerability: you often set the tone as the leader(s)
 - B. Take the Bible seriously, but not ourselves
 - 1. Play Devil’s advocate
 - 2. Differentiate the points your group is making; point out similarities, disagreements
 - C. Ask surprising, piercing questions.
 - D. Outward-facing
 - 1. Always assume non-Christians are present; do not assume you know where everyone is
 - 2. Have people define their terms and do not assume Bible or church-language knowledge
 - 3. Remember, *God is at work in you and through you and through His Scriptures in your Bible study*