



MANAGING YOUR SMALL GROUP

LAY OUT EXPECTATIONS/GOALS:

- Beginning of each small group time: Make sure your students know your expectations.
- Let them know what your role is in their life. (This might be the last time you see this student. What do you want them to know?)
- **Expectation examples:**
 - Phones are off and put in the basket
 - They have a Bible
 - RESPECT: They listen to each other and do not make fun of each other.
 - Desire for them to ask questions or share opinions.
 - Desire for them to articulate their faith.
 - Younger students: raise hand before sharing.
- **Goal Examples:**
 - Share your “end goal” for this group. Ex: “By the time you are a senior you are a student leader using your spiritual gifts”.
 - Share how you want to see them grow spiritually.
 - Address the “Elephant in the room” issues. Ex. Cliques.

OBSERVE YOUR GROUP

- Watch the body language of your students as you teach:
 - Are they bored
 - Fidgety
 - Engaged
 - *Be ready to change up your lesson based on the body language of your students.*
- Don't miss an opportunity:
 - If you notice a personality change, ask them about it privately.
 - Every opportunity can be a teaching moment. Look for those moments.
 - Prevent foreseen issues before they start.
 - Do not wait to address behavior issues.
- Challenge Your Group:
 - Small group leaders are disciplers. Look for ways to disciple your students. Examples:
 - Challenge them to read books of the Bible
 - Challenge them to share their faith with one friend
 - Challenge them to bring a friend to youth group
 - Challenge them to teach the small group
 - Challenge them to go on a missions trip
 - Challenge them to use their gifts on the leadership team.

TEACHING

- STAND and teach. Walk around. This will help you to address students talking while not distracting from the topic.
- Find Kinesthetic/Visual ways to teach. Examples:
 - Debate
 - Research the topic themselves
 - Act out a story
 - Have them draw what they hear
 - Chose a student to be the scribe
 - Use a whiteboard
 - Use clay to make shapes
 - Use illustrations when teaching
- Look at what 'type' of students you have in your group:
 - Church kids/Non-Christians
 - Home school
 - Public/Private school
 - *Once you know your students, this will help you prepare your lessons accordingly.*
- Make sure you give opportunity for your students to share. Do not be the one talking the whole time. Create an environment where students feel open to share.
- Listen to their answers. This will help you to know in which direction to continue your teaching.
- Be open to letting the Holy Spirit move. There is a difference when a student is going on a rabbit trail or really needing to address an issue.
- Responding: You DO NOT have to give an answer for everything students say. Discern if it is something you can let go or if you should give an answer.
- Teaching Application:
 - Give personal examples:
 - Everyone loves stories. Discern the age of the student on what details you give.
 - Do not give so many details about your story that they end up bored. Stick to the point.
- Make the application apply to them...parents, friends, school, jobs, grades, sports...etc. (Bring it back to something they were talking about earlier.)
- Use examples by referring to other students in the group. (Ex. Let's say Hannah was being mean to her sister. What biblical wisdom should we give her?)
- Make your point in around 3 – 5 sentences. They do not need a lecture.