



L

Look people in the eye

- Engage people by giving them individual and specific attention
- Model the attention you want students to give each other
- Discourage side conversations

I

Involve every student

- When someone answers, don't immediately fill-in with your thoughts
- Instead ask: what did you think? what are your reactions?
- Find opportunities to involve the fringe student: "Steve, you're a guy with great insight, what do you think?"

S

Seek to hear (and not repair) people's pain

- Everyone is hurting somewhere
- Often, the pain is "hiding" beneath the surface
- i.e. "My family is no fun" may actually mean "I don't feel loved by my dad."
Good listen does involve follow-up questions (i.e. "why do you think your family isn't fun?")

T

Talk less

- A small percentage of the small group time should involve you talking
- Less is more when it comes to a leader's voice
- Don't become a "formal" teacher in your small group—be a facilitator of discussion
- Try to turn statements into questions

E

Encourage a safe and open atmosphere

- Be transparent...with discretion
- Leader: I know you've been praying for your friend John –how's that going?
- Student: Not so well, I just don't seem to even when I want to.
- Leader: I know that feeling. I had a great opportunity to talk about Jesus yesterday and I blew it.
- Value others feelings
- Affirm every student's answer

N

No short answers

- Dig deeper
- Follow-up a short answer with: "why" or "explain"
- A quick answer often minimizes pain
- i.e. my parents are getting a divorce:
Have you thought about seeking God, he is full of answers? (wrong)
I know that can be tough, let's walk through this together. (right)