

Open Small Group Discussion Guide - Outline A

From time to time there either may not be a discussion outline available or the one available is not fitting to your group this particular week. That is okay! As a leader you are free to lead your group as you sense the Holy Spirit would lead you. But be careful to not get into the habit of “winging it” or becoming lazy in your preparations. Jesus calls you to effectively lead your group under His Lordship and Leadership. You are the shepherd of this group, under the Great Shepherd.

Following are a number of outlines that you may find helpful. Feel free to print out this paper and have it ready in your files. There is no copyright here, enjoy. ☺

Conversation Starter and Ice Breaker: pick one

- Pick one or two questions from the “101 Relational Discussion Starters” in Resources
- Go around the group and share some highlights. For extra fun and pressure, set a timer for 1 minute. Pastor Tim does this with his staff; it’s fun!
 - One thing you are thankful for
 - One highlight of the week
 - One prayer request
- List 3 things you are thankful for – set the 1-minute timer.

Bible Discussion and Reflection

- Be prepared as a leader to share a short passage of the Bible from the past week in your devotions. Prepare as deep as you want, but be prepared to share one personal thing that the Holy Spirit brought to your heart and mind while reading this passage. Ask the group to weigh in on their thoughts of the passage.
- Have the group members share their own experiences from their devotions, including Bible passages and insights
- It is important to move the discussion from knowledge to application. What is one way of changing my life based on the Bible passage we just discussed?

Prayer: choose 2 or 3 items

- Begin by giving thanks to God for many things
- Share personal prayer requests and concerns
- Share “outside of personal” requests and concerns
- Choose one Church staff person and Elder to pray for; pray for our Church
- Pray for one other Church in your city or town
- Pray for one Missionary
- Pray for one Canadian issue in the news
- Pray for one World issue in the news