Mission: Equipping the People of God Ephesians 4:12
LN Facilitators are a vital part of carrying out our mission.

1. HAMMER THE MAIN POINT

"Whatever gets repeated gets reinforced."

2. ACTIVE LISTENING

- Be listening to hear, not just to respond.
- Give everyone a moment to process questions.

- Some people need a space to think & process before they're ready to talk.

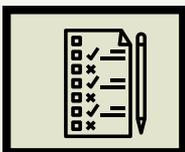## 3. REPEAT WHAT YOU HEAR

- "I hear your heart on that...it is really tough when _____."

4. DIG DEEPER

If someone gives one-word answers, it's good to ASK:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?

Arrive Prepared

- Between 6:30- 6:50pm is preferred arrival time
- Check email (Facilitator email usually sent by Tues)
- Come with weekly reading already completed

Facilitating the Convo

- **WORK THROUGH THE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Ensuring your table works through the discussion questions keeps all Life Night participants tracking together.

1. BRIEFLY recapping the assigned reading for the week is okay, but this should not take more than 5 minutes.
- Rereading the assigned reading in full takes away a level of accountability from the participants. It is NOT your job to do the reading for them. :)

2. Table Talks are most successful when the whole table is talking
- Table Talks are not a time for a solo teacher or preacher
- If the facilitator is the main one talking...that's not a Table Talk, that is a Table Teaching.

3. Gospel > Political Views
- We have been graced with a beautifully diverse church
- Stay Gospel-Centered: As we enter this space, it would be helpful to spend some time focusing your heart on the gospel. Our goal is not to make each other moral. Our goal is to be changed by the grace of God with the truth of the gospel.

3. Redirecting Statements
- If the group gets off topic, gently redirect them back to the Table Talk discussion.

Think About Your Leadership

- List four areas that are personal strengths you bring to the table as a facilitator.

1.

2.

3.

4.

- If there was one area you could improve in, what would it be?

HOW TO NAVIGATE THE CONVERSATION DESPITE CHALLENGING PERSONALITY DYNAMICS:

The Over-talker: *This person always has plenty to say and loves to be the first person to say it.*

- How to respond to them:
    - "I'm sure all of us have so much life experience to add to the conversation, let's be mindful that we want to give each person an opportunity to contribute to the discussion."
    - "I would love to hear from some of you we haven't heard from yet."

The Non-talker: *This is the quiet person in the group who rarely wants to share.*

How to respond to them:
• It's okay to give gentle prompting, "Joe, did you want to add anything?" and if they would rather not, that is okay too.
*** If they do end up sharing, be sure to thank them for sharing.

Good Things Happen Around the Table

- **The Unaware person:** *This individual gives advice, cuts people off, and may even make unnecessary comments.*

How to respond to them:
- If someone gets cut off the first time, it's okay to let the person who interrupted finish their thought and then simply redirect and invite the person who was interrupted to finish their thought. (*This helps brings an awareness to the group*)
- In the event that a person cuts another off more than once, it's ok to gently interrupt the interrupter & bring to their attention that the other person wasn't finished with her thought.

- i.e., "*Hey Brenda, Jake wasn't able to finish his thought. Let's go back to her and then we will come back to you.*"

The Tangent-starter: T*his person tends to get the group off track by starting random tangents & rabbit trails.*

Try not to get upset at the tangents, & feel free to follow them once in a while. When the time comes, firmly bring the group back on track.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

The end goal of a group discussion is connection with truth & one another, not perfect discussions.

God is the one who does the work in people's hearts – we are not responsible for it! We're simply creating an environment for community and life change to happen.