

# Group Leader Tips for Success

Success in groups looks like this: members who are developing relationships in the group and pursuing Next Steps

It's important to remember that being successful doesn't necessarily mean you have to be a gifted teacher, speaker or leader. If the members of your group are applying God's word to their lives, enjoying biblical fellowship & community with each other, and are passionately devoted to pursuing God, then you have a healthy and successful group!

With that goal of success in mind, here are eight tips to help your group become successful.

1. **Prepare** - Take time during the week to go over your material or plans to make sure that you're ready to lead well.
2. **Pray** - Pray yourself before you meet with your group. Pray with your group at the beginning and end of each meeting. Also, pray for your group members during the week.
3. **Communicate** - Communicate with your group on a weekly basis. Send an email or text encouraging them; let them know you're praying for them and use it as a reminder for the next meeting time.
4. **Be Punctual** - Start and end your group on time. Everyone's time is valuable so model this for your group by being punctual.
5. **Be Open** - Be transparent with your group. Let them see you for who you are. Be *REAL* with them.
6. **Encourage** - Promote a safe environment where people won't be afraid to get involved. Give positive reinforcements to the answers people give. Do your best to avoid controversial topics in your group (i.e. politics, doctrinal issues, etc.). While you want to allow people to share their beliefs, try to keep the conversations positive and on topic. If you need to speak directly to someone about what they share, make sure you do so privately and do your best to make sure you do not embarrass them or discourage them.
7. **Facilitate** - Remember that your group should be a *discussion* group. You are there to *facilitate conversation*. The goal is to have input and communication from all members of the group.
8. **Balance** - You need to have a balance between "hang-out" time and discussion time. Encourage the group to meet outside of the normal meeting time to fellowship and build relationships as a group. Building relationships is equally as important as the study time you have together.