

## **Guidelines for Small group Leaders/Facilitators**

### **Facilitator Skills to use when your group meets:**

\*Preparations: As a member of HHMI Discipleship, you will have access to the PDF file of the questions for the lessons and topics. You can download them in advance, print them off, and then, if you like, make copies to share with other members of your group. It is recommended that you listen to the teaching and go through the questions on your own BEFORE the group meets so that you are well prepared in the teaching content.

\*One of your roles, as facilitator, is to be the timekeeper. Respect other's time. Begin and end ON TIME.

\*Begin with prayer. Ask Holy Spirit to move in and through each member of the group.

\*Set up/review the ground rules. (For example: One person speaks at a time, no talking over or interrupting others, we can "agree to disagree" but still respect and love another.)

\*Group members will need to BRING THEIR BIBLES! For folks with a laptop or SmartPhone, [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) is also a GREAT RESOURCE for doing a word study!

\*It is recommended that you watch the teaching video together or listen to the teaching audio together. THEN discuss the questions together as a group.

\*One of the roles of the facilitator is to ASK GOOD QUESTIONS. The questions from the PDF file are designed to get the learners to look up scriptures, see connections, and begin seeing truth at the REMEZ, DRASH and SOD level. This is a very HEBRAIC way of learning, by ASKING QUESTIONS. These carefully thought out questions are like breadcrumbs that can lead people to the TRUTH found in the Scriptures and in Yeshua. As the group looks up the scriptures and then they ponder and reflect on the questions, the HOLY SPIRIT will ILLUMINATE to their minds insight and understanding!

\*Sometimes two or three people may speak up frequently, while others are quiet. To bring balance to the group, and to draw out the more quiet ones, you can say something like this: "Let's move on to the next question. I would like to hear from someone who has not yet shared."

\*If the thread of discussion gets "off task/off topic", sometimes these "rabbit trails" can be fruitful/productive. However, sometimes it leads down an unfruitful trail and takes up valuable time. As facilitator, your role is to keep the group on time and on task. You can say something like this:

\* "Let's come back to the scripture here."

\* "Let's come back to the question here."

\* "Let's go on to the next question."

\*Emphasize with the group this principle: "When we study the Hebraic roots of the Christian faith, we must remember to keep EVERYTHING focused on Yeshua our Messiah. Keep these two scriptures ever before you, in your mind and heart and in the minds/hearts of the group members. Read and review Psalm 40:7-6 and 1 John 2:6 OFTEN with the group!

\*If the group gets into a discussion where there is a difference of opinion on something, and it becomes divisive, step in and remind folks of this: "We can agree to disagree and respect and love one another." Then redirect the group back to the questions and/or the scriptures. (See John 13:35, John 15:12, Romans 13:8, 1 John 3:23, 1 John 4:7, 1 John 4:11-12)

**\*Finishing/concluding:** Leave a block of time towards the end to process the last question, "What is one new thing you learned in this lesson? How will you apply this to your life?" This is an open ended question. There is no "right" or "wrong" answer to this question. It is IMPORTANT to process together.

This question will help each person to think about what is their own personal "take away" that they are going to remember from this time together. The question also helps people to think about personal APPLICATION. How will I walk this out?

\*Agree to keep anything personal shared in the group CONFIDENTIAL.

**Here is a suggestion:** You could do a "round robin", and have each person in your group answer this question. Ask that each person answer briefly (2 minutes or less). That way EVERYONE gets a chance to seal this lesson up in their mind/heart by sharing their "take away."

### **Eight Habits for Small Group Life, Vitality and Healthy Growth**

These eight habits can take a small-group leader, and those under him or her, to a new level. Whether an apprentice leader, a novice small-group leader, a seasoned leader, a coach of group leaders, a director of a district of groups, or a pastor of a large small-group ministry, these eight habits will work and lead to fruitfulness and multiplication. The eight habits of effective small-group leaders are:

1. Envision that you are leading a healthy, growing, multiplying group. Pray into it!
2. Pray for group members daily.
3. Invite new people to visit the group weekly.
4. Contact group members regularly. Build relationship!
5. Prepare for the group meeting.
6. Mentor an apprentice leader. Allow him/her to practice facilitating.
7. Plan group fellowship activities. Build relationship!
8. Be committed to personal growth.

For more information on this, see the book [8 Habits of Effective Small Group Leaders](#), by Dave Earley,

Finally, if you would like some coaching, have some questions, or need help/support, please contact us at: [hhmidiscipleship@gmail.com](mailto:hhmidiscipleship@gmail.com). We want to stand with you to see your discipleship group grow and flourish!