

People Learn Better When ... GroupWords

Being the leader of a small group Bible study requires that we understand how people best learn truth. While giving information is certainly a part of leading people deeper into faith, our larger goal is to lead people to experience a changed life as a result of applying God's Word to their daily lives — transformation. With this in mind, keep the following learning principles in mind as you prepare for your next small group session.

1. PEOPLE LEARN BETTER WHEN THEY RESPOND ACTIVELY ...

So, give them a problem to solve or a case study to analyze. Allow them to think out loud, in their own words, as they respond actively.

2. PEOPLE LEARN BETTER WHEN THE TRUTH IS PRESENTED IN A VARIETY OF WAYS ...

So, **read** the truth to them, show them **pictures** of the truth, allow them to **listen** to a song about the truth, and illustrate the truth with **stories**.

3. PEOPLE LEARN BETTER WHEN THEY USE ONE OR MORE OF THEIR SENSES ...

So, find ways to use their: hearing, seeing, touching, smelling, and doing.

4. PEOPLE LEARN BETTER WHEN THEY REPEAT WHAT THEY LEARN ...

So, ask people to (1) summarize what they have learned so far, (2) preview where their learning is leading them, (3) brainstorm about the practical implications of the lesson, and (4) report a synopsis of the lesson for those who missed last week.

5. PEOPLE LEARN BETTER WHEN TRUTH IS PRESENTED IN AN ORGANIZED MANNER ...

So, use an outline or a handout of some kind. Present orally or visually the transition from point to point and preview the main points.

6. PEOPLE LEARN BETTER WHEN THEY FEEL FREE TO RESPOND ...

So, use a conversational tone, tell personal experiences, begin with an icebreaker, use humor, invite people to share, and then listen to what they say.

There is no one “perfect” way to lead a small group. Hopefully some of these ideas will spark an idea that will help you lead your group.

Because of a Cross,
Bob Chisholm