

Group Discussion Guidelines

Participant Copy

1. This Program will communicate many **essential truths** which are a significant part of Church teaching. This is not a Program which is simply offering different personal opinions.

In order to interiorize these traditional truths, we will be examining and relating personal experience of real-life examples that are related to what has been taught. These **real-life examples will allow us to understand and remember the teaching better** so as to grow in our communication with Jesus Christ. Therefore, when relating or listening to personal experience, hold it with reverence but always ultimately compare it with the truth that was been taught by the presenter. Affirm each person's response by a thank you or smile but without agreeing if the answer goes against Church teaching. Refer back to the presenter for the correction.

To gain the greatest benefit for each member of the group, and to stay on track – to be respectful of other people's time – we will need to **keep the responses brief**. Each of us has knowledge and wisdom to offer, but it is important to notice your own personal way in which you tend to respond to questions asked.

When you have something to contribute:

Do you **jump in and want to talk in order to think out loud**? You might need to rein yourself in and become a better listener.

Do you tend to **listen more and take time to process your thoughts before responding**?

Then you may need to push yourself a bit and be willing to respond more quickly.

Acknowledging both ways are helpful to the group, please respect the complimentary of these differing ways that can serve to the benefit of everyone.

- Identify the specific way that you tend to respond to questions in a group. How will you cooperate with God's grace to assure that you contribute to the group in the best way possible? If you feel comfortable, relate this with the group?



2. **Personal Growth:** If we rely just on what we already know, we won't grow. So please, it is important that each person contribute to the conversation.
3. **Charity:** We are not here to bash others. Please do not talk about your spouse or anyone by name. Certainly you can tell stories, but be charitable.
4. **Confidentiality:** What is said in the group stays in the group. We should be able to talk freely and not worry about others talking about us or repeating what we said in the group.
5. **Ask questions:** Any question related to the content is a good question, no matter how simple. In fact if we don't ask the question and pretend to know something, we will remain ignorant; so PLEASE ask. If your facilitator doesn't know the answer they will find out and get back to us. Each one of us is here to learn!
6. **Attend every session:** If there is a Scripture passage to pray with each day or some discussion questions to complete at home (for example), please come even if you haven't had a chance to complete this part. It is far more important to at least be listening to the questions and answers than to just not show up. We need the groups to develop a strong bond where everyone pulls their own weight; but sometimes "life" gets in the way. We should not feel like we will be "yelled at". We are loved!

