

Don't worry! You don't need to be an expert teacher to lead this Bible study. The group sessions are designed to be interactive and engaging rather than lecture-oriented. In fact, a HOST by definition is not necessarily an expert. He is simply someone who is willing to 1. open his home, 2. operate a DVD player, 3. serve some refreshments, and 4. talk. You can do those things! So relax and enjoy your journey as a small group HOST.

TIPS FOR FACILITATING THE GROUP MEETING

Remember, as a HOST you can never transform a life. You must lead your group into the power of redemptive community, trusting the Holy Spirit to transform lives along the way.

1. The meeting should be a maximum of two hours in length (including your meal) and should feel like a comfortable conversation and not a classroom or lecture experience.
2. Don't talk too much. This will kill a great group experience. A good group leader speaks less than 30 percent of the time.
3. Don't be afraid of silence. If you create an environment where you fill all the gaps of silence, the group will quickly learn they do not need to join in the conversation.
4. Every group has individuals who can tend to dominate the conversation. This is unhealthy for the group and frustrating to members. Try to deal with this assertively yet politely. Say something like, "Thanks for your thoughts. Now let's hear from someone we haven't heard from yet."
5. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading on issues that may need more time. Remember, people and their needs are far more important than completing all the questions.

FEATURES OF THIS STUDY

LEADER SCRIPT

We understand the time constraints on a busy small group HOST, so our desire is to make this as easy for you as possible. We have provided a script for you to follow as you facilitate each group session. Some of you will love this. Others would rather make it your own. Great! Use our suggestions as a starting point.

VIDEO HOSTED

Each week we will come alongside you and help guide your group through the Radical experience. How will we do this? Through the DVD. Each week Senior Pastor, Pat Hood, will host your session virtually. Your job during the session? Simply facilitate discussion and build community.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The key to a great group session is great discussion. Experts agree that we remember very little of what we're told, but we retain a great deal of what we discover. Our goal is not to tell your group all the answers. Rather, we want to take you on a journey through scripture to discover truth for yourselves. We've written questions for your group to discuss during each session. You'll find them in each week's leader guide. Don't miss the Diving Deeper section in each sidebar that provides a few extra questions for the group that's ready to go a little deeper.

GROUP MEETING FLOW

Each week's group experience is laid out in an easy-to-use format consisting of three sections:

CONNECT

A section designed to warm up the group, to get them talking — even laughing together — and to lay the foundation for the day's topic. Don't skip over this section. Take the time to laugh together. Do your part to maintain a lighthearted environment and to prepare your own heart to focus on God's Word.

EXPLORE

This section is the heartbeat of each week's study. It's designed to lead your group into God's Word as you engage the text together. As you embrace the truth of His Word, you'll take steps toward a deeper Christ-centered life and to finding your place in the story.

TRANSFORM

God never intended for you to have only cognitive knowledge of His Word. No, our real knowledge of Him is indicated by our actions. This section gives each member of your group some practical next steps as you discover the part you play in the story of God's glory among the nations.

PREPARATION

This study does not require a lot of advance preparation. But here are a few suggestions for you to be as prepared for your group as possible:

WATCH THE LEADER TIPS

On your Radical DVD, you'll find leader tips for each of the six sessions of this campaign. Each week Executive Director of GroupLife, Eddie Mosley, will bring you a preview of the session along with helpful hints to ensure that each member of your group has a great experience and is pointed to a Christ-centered life. Take some time early in the week to watch these and implement the ideas into your session.

PREVIEW THE SESSION

Take some time to read through the leader guide and watch the session on DVD. Make a few notes. Highlight key ideas. Research the scriptures. Even write your own questions. You know your group best. The point is to be prepared to keep the conversation moving during your group meeting.

PRAY

As hard as we prepare, no matter how hard we try, we alone can never change a life. God does that. So ask Him to. Pray for each of your group members by name — for their spiritual journeys, their families, and their needs. Then sit back and watch what God does when we express our dependence on Him.



For more helpful info, visit www.groupleader.org.