

Session 4: Facilitating Group Discipleship

February 2 | 6–8 PM

Big Idea

Group discipleship doesn't happen automatically. It requires intentional leadership that creates space for the Holy Spirit to work through Scripture, community, and honest conversation.

I. Opening Framing: Why Groups Matter

Key Teaching Points

- Discipleship in Scripture is fundamentally communal, not individualistic
- Spiritual growth happens most deeply in relationships marked by truth, love, and accountability
- Groups are not primarily about content coverage, but about formation into Christlikeness

Biblical Anchors

- “It is not good that man is alone...”
- Sin is estrangement and salvation is reconciled relationships (sacraments)
- “I will give you [Abraham] a family...”
- Acts 2:42–47 – Life shared around teaching, prayer, fellowship
- Hebrews 10:24–25 – Stirring one another up toward love and good works
- Colossians 3:16 – Teaching and admonishing one another

II. The Role of the Group Facilitator

Key Teaching Points

- A facilitator is not a lecturer, expert, or problem-solver
- A facilitator is a shepherd of conversation and a guardian of the group's spiritual tone
- The goal is not right answers, but faithful engagement and transformation

Core Responsibilities

- Keep Scripture central
- Encourage broad participation
- Protect the emotional and spiritual safety of the group
- Trust the Holy Spirit to do the transforming work

Key Principle

Good facilitation creates space; it doesn't dominate it.

Reflection Question

Which of these responsibilities feels most natural to you? Which feels most challenging?

III. Leading Spiritually Formative Conversations

Types of Questions

- Observation questions: What do you notice in the text?
- Interpretation questions: What does this reveal about God or humanity?
- Application questions: How does this intersect with real life?
- Formation questions: What might the Spirit be inviting you to change or trust?

Best Practices

- Ask open-ended questions
- Allow silence—don't rush to fill it
- Affirm participation without evaluating responses
- Gently redirect when discussion becomes abstract or theoretical

Key Reminder

Transformation usually happens slowly, through reflection and honesty—not through pressure or performance.

IV. Navigating Group Dynamics with Wisdom and Grace (7:10–7:30)

Common Group Challenges

- The Dominant Talker
- The Silent Participant
- The Chronic Skeptic or Derailer
- Conflict or emotional tension

Guiding Principles

- Lead with patience, not control
- Address patterns gently and privately when needed
- Maintain clarity about group purpose and expectations
- Keep Christ, not personalities, at the center

Pastoral Insight

Healthy groups are not conflict-free; they are guided well through tension.