



Group Conversation Helps

As we lead our GT-groups, our goal is to create an atmosphere where open, honest sharing and learning can take place. The Discipleship Group Covenant lays out some expectations that all participants agree to uphold during the group meetings. This can be a great reference and/or reminder if needed. Below are some tips adapted from AlphaUSA (<https://alpha.org/tips-for-creating-an-open-discussion/>) that may help to give some conversation guidance for you as the Facilitator.

Keep the Conversation Alive

You may share these conversation expectations with the group in the first few meetings if you experience any difficulty or imbalance in sharing.

- You don't have to talk if you don't want to, but we'd love to hear from everyone.
- Any question or comment is welcome (just be brief and respectful).
- Respect each other by listening and allowing different opinions.
- Keep personal things confidential when you leave this group.

Conversation Tips

Rather than asking yes or no questions, ask open ended questions and/or follow up questions that help the conversation to keep going.

- Yes, good question! What do the rest of you think?
- Can you explain a bit more, or give an example?
- Are you wondering if...(clarify, rephrase)
- Has anyone else experienced something similar?
- And how does that make you feel?
- Can you share with us how that question came up for you?

Affirmations

It's important to be positive and to remind each participant that they are each important.

- Thank you for sharing that.
- I appreciate your honesty. Tell us more.
- Yes, I can relate to that too!
- It's ok to take a minute and think about it. That's what we're here for. No rush.
- I'm glad you're here!

While these suggestions can all be helpful for keeping the conversation moving, we want to always ensure that we are submitted to biblical truth and focused on the material presented in the GT manual.