

## 7 Tips to help you lead a great All In Men Meet Up

(adapted from the Leader's Notes in a LifeGuide Bible Study)

### **The short version:**

1. Pray beforehand.
2. Prepare so you can be a good facilitator.
3. Begin and end on time.
4. Open and close in prayer. Invite someone else to pray.
5. Plan to open up when you offer answers and discuss ways you will apply God's word.
6. Don't be afraid of silence after you ask a question.
7. Don't be the first to answer a question. Then ask for more than one answer from the group.

### **The longer version:**

1. Ask God to help you understand and connect with the week's theme of "Life's Contrasts." Pray for your group, that you will all be open to the Holy Spirit and motivated to action.
2. Prepare. Read the Bible verses in the guide and think about their significance. Consider the scriptural context of these verses and how they apply to your own life. Write down a few thoughts and short answers to the questions.
3. Begin and end the meeting on time! This is the leader's responsibility so DO watch the clock. People will be grateful you valued their time and directed the flow of conversation. Advise them early on what to expect so they can be part of keeping the group on track.
4. Open the small group by asking someone to invite God's help so the group will engage with the truth. Ask Him for strength to follow through on commitments you've made.
5. The group will follow your lead in going deep (being transparent and finding practical application) or not. Try to go beyond surface conversation, and talk about how you can apply the Scripture to your life. Select a few "take-aways" you want the group to have.
6. Silence isn't your enemy or a sign things are bad (usually). Embrace it as a good part of discussions. You can even say you are going to pause for time to think before asking for responses. Watch for those who are ready to share or call on someone to help them feel their input is welcomed. This can be a way to manage input from more talkative folks.
7. Avoid being the first person to answer a question. Try to be the second or third person to answer. You may need to restate or rephrase the question. The group will become passive if you, as the leader, do most of the talking. And don't stop after just one answer is given (especially if you decided to share first!). Ask, "What do the rest of you think?" or "Anyone else?" until several people have responded. Try to make it a group dialogue.