

## **Small Group Facilitation Tips**

### **Best Practices for Leading Engaging Marriage Discussions**

#### **Purpose**

Small marriage groups provide husbands and wives with opportunities to learn, reflect, communicate, and grow alongside other couples. Effective facilitation helps create an environment where participants feel welcomed, respected, spiritually supported, and encouraged to apply biblical principles within their marriages.

The role of the facilitator is not to solve every marital problem or provide professional counseling. The facilitator's responsibility is to guide the discussion, protect the group environment, encourage participation, maintain appropriate boundaries, and help couples connect the lesson to practical action.

These facilitation tips are designed to help pastors, ministry leaders, and couple facilitators lead marriage discussions that are:

- Biblically grounded
- Purposeful
- Engaging
- Respectful
- Practical
- Emotionally safe
- Couple-centered
- Action-oriented

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## **Understanding the Facilitator's Role**

A small-group facilitator helps participants engage with the lesson and one another.

The facilitator should:

- Prepare thoroughly
- Establish a welcoming atmosphere
- Explain the purpose of each session

- Guide rather than dominate the discussion
- Ask clear and thoughtful questions
- Encourage balanced participation
- Protect participant privacy
- Redirect unhelpful conversations
- Maintain appropriate time boundaries
- Connect discussion to practical application
- Recognize when pastoral or professional support is needed
- Communicate concerns to the appropriate church leader

The facilitator is not expected to:

- Know every answer
- Resolve private marital disputes
- Diagnose emotional or mental health conditions
- Provide legal advice
- Conduct therapy
- Take sides between spouses
- Pressure participants to disclose private information
- Present personal preferences as biblical commands
- Allow harmful or disrespectful behavior to continue
- Handle serious safety concerns alone

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## **Before the First Meeting**

### **Review the Material**

Facilitators should review the complete lesson before the group meets.

Preparation should include:

- Reading the assigned chapter or lesson

- Reviewing the Scripture references
- Identifying the essential question
- Understanding the learning objective
- Completing the participant activity
- Preparing examples
- Reviewing the discussion questions
- Anticipating areas of confusion
- Identifying sensitive topics
- Planning the application activity
- Reviewing referral procedures

### **Clarify the Session Goal**

Every session should have one central purpose.

Ask:

- What should participants understand?
- What should couples be able to discuss?
- What practical behavior should participants be able to apply?
- How will I know whether the session was effective?

Avoid trying to address too many topics in one meeting.

### **Prepare the Environment**

The meeting space should be comfortable, organized, and welcoming.

Consider:

- Seating couples where they can see one another
- Using a circle or semicircle when possible
- Providing adequate lighting
- Reducing distractions
- Preparing name tags

- Providing pens and materials
- Testing technology in advance
- Making refreshments available when appropriate
- Posting directional signs
- Ensuring accessibility
- Protecting privacy from unnecessary interruptions

### **Pray for the Group**

Before the meeting, pray for:

- Wisdom
- Humility
- Sensitivity
- Discernment
- Participant safety
- Honest reflection
- Marital growth
- Unity
- Practical application
- God's guidance

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### **Establishing Group Expectations**

Clear expectations help prevent confusion and protect the learning environment.

Review the expectations during the first meeting and briefly reinforce them throughout the program.

### **Confidentiality**

Explain that personal information shared within the group should remain private.

Participants should not:

- Repeat another couple's story
- Share assessment results without permission
- Discuss private conversations outside the group
- Post group discussions on social media
- Use another participant's disclosure as gossip
- Share identifying information during prayer requests without consent

Also explain that confidentiality has limits when there are concerns involving:

- Threats of harm
- Child abuse
- Domestic violence
- Sexual abuse
- Suicidal statements
- Immediate safety concerns
- Situations requiring mandatory reporting

### **Voluntary Sharing**

Participants should control what they choose to share.

Do not require couples to disclose:

- Private conflicts
- Sexual concerns
- Financial details
- Infidelity
- Abuse
- Trauma
- Mental health conditions
- Legal matters
- Counseling history

A participant may pass on any question.

### **Respectful Communication**

Participants should:

- Speak from their own perspective
- Avoid attacking or criticizing a spouse
- Avoid interrupting
- Listen without preparing a rebuttal
- Disagree respectfully
- Avoid sarcasm
- Avoid public embarrassment
- Allow others time to speak
- Refrain from giving unsolicited advice
- Focus on personal growth

### **Equal Participation**

No single person or couple should dominate the conversation.

The facilitator should encourage:

- Husbands and wives to participate
- Quieter members to contribute
- More verbal members to listen
- Couples at different marriage stages to share
- Participants to respond to the lesson rather than debate one another

### **Appropriate Boundaries**

The group is an educational and discipleship environment.

The group is not:

- A courtroom
- A counseling session

- A place to expose a spouse
  - A place to recruit allies
  - A place to prove who is right
  - A place for public confrontation
  - A substitute for professional support
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## **Creating a Welcoming Atmosphere**

### **Learn Participants' Names**

Use participants' names during the session.

This communicates:

- Attention
- Respect
- Warmth
- Personal connection

Provide name tags during the early meetings if needed.

### **Begin With Simple Conversation**

Before addressing deeper topics, allow participants to connect through light conversation.

Possible opening questions include:

- What is one good thing that happened this week?
- What is one activity you enjoy doing together?
- What is one meal, movie, or place you both enjoy?
- What is one strength you see in your marriage?
- What is one word that describes your week?

Avoid beginning with highly personal questions.

**Welcome Couples at Different Stages**

The group may include:

- Newly married couples
- Long-term married couples
- Blended families
- Couples with children
- Couples without children
- Couples experiencing stress
- Couples seeking enrichment
- Couples preparing for ministry

Avoid assuming every couple has the same experiences, resources, or concerns.

**Normalize Growth**

Present the group as a place for development rather than a program only for marriages in crisis.

Use language such as:

- Every marriage can grow.
- Strong couples continue learning.
- Participation is an investment in the marriage.
- The goal is understanding, not perfection.
- Small changes can produce meaningful growth.

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**Beginning Each Session****Welcome Participants**

Begin on time and welcome participants warmly.

A simple opening may include:

- Greeting

- Brief informal conversation
- Review of the session purpose
- Opening prayer
- Reminder of group expectations

### **Review the Previous Session**

Use a brief review rather than reteaching the entire lesson.

Ask:

- What idea stayed with you from the last session?
- What did you practice during the week?
- What was helpful?
- What was difficult?
- What question do you still have?

Do not pressure participants to report private results.

### **State the Essential Question**

The essential question helps focus the session.

Examples:

- How can couples communicate disagreement without damaging connection?
- How can a wife recognize the form of respect that matters most to her husband?
- How can a husband identify behaviors that help his wife feel understood?
- How can couples make important decisions as a team?
- How can a husband and wife identify God's purpose for their marriage?

### **Explain the Learning Objective**

Tell participants what they should be able to do by the end of the session.

Example:

By the end of this session, couples will identify one communication habit they want to strengthen and create a practical plan for using it this week.

## **Asking Effective Discussion Questions**

### **Use Open-Ended Questions**

Open-ended questions encourage reflection and conversation.

Instead of asking:

Was communication important in this lesson?

Ask:

What communication principle from the lesson seems most important to your marriage?

Instead of asking:

Do you agree?

Ask:

What part of this idea seems clear, challenging, or applicable?

### **Ask One Question at a Time**

Avoid questions that contain several ideas.

Poor example:

How did the lesson affect your communication, your decision-making, and your spiritual connection?

Better approach:

What communication idea stood out to you?

After discussion:

How might that idea influence decision-making?

### **Use Questions With Different Levels of Depth**

Begin with understanding before moving to personal application.

#### **Level One: Recall**

- What was the main idea?
- Which Scripture was emphasized?

- What definition was provided?
- What were the primary steps?

**Level Two: Interpretation**

- What does this principle mean in marriage?
- Why might couples struggle with this behavior?
- How does this example illustrate the lesson?
- What misunderstanding could occur?

**Level Three: Application**

- How could this principle be practiced?
- What behavior could a couple change this week?
- What would this sound like in a conversation?
- What obstacle might prevent application?

**Level Four: Reflection**

- What challenged your thinking?
- What did you recognize about yourself?
- What deserves further discussion?
- What action feels most important?

**Allow Silence**

Do not answer your own question immediately.

After asking a question:

- Pause
- Look around the group
- Give participants time to think
- Avoid appearing uncomfortable
- Allow several seconds before rephrasing

Silence does not always mean disengagement. Participants may be reflecting.

**Rephrase When Needed**

When participants appear confused, simplify the question.

Original:

How does your understanding of relational expectations influence your marital communication?

Rephrased:

How do your expectations affect the way you talk with your spouse?

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**Encouraging Balanced Participation****Invite Quieter Participants Without Pressure**

Use gentle invitations such as:

- Would anyone who has not spoken like to respond?
- We would value another perspective.
- Take a moment to think, and share only if you are comfortable.
- Would one of the couples on this side like to respond?

Avoid calling on someone repeatedly or forcing a response.

**Manage Dominant Participants**

When one person speaks too often, respond respectfully.

Possible statements include:

- Thank you for sharing. Let us hear from someone else.
- That is helpful. I want to make sure we leave room for other voices.
- Let us pause there and invite another perspective.
- I appreciate your participation. I would like to hear from a couple who has not spoken.

**Prevent One Spouse From Speaking for the Other**

If one spouse repeatedly answers for both, say:

- Thank you. I would also like to hear your spouse's perspective.

- Would each of you like to answer separately?
- Let us give both partners an opportunity to respond.
- There may be two valid perspectives within the same marriage.

### **Use Pair Discussion**

Some participants speak more comfortably with their spouse before addressing the group.

Provide two to five minutes for couples to discuss a question privately.

Then ask:

- What general insight did your discussion produce?
- What principle did you agree was important?
- What action did you identify?
- What can be shared without revealing private details?

### **Use Written Reflection**

Provide participants with time to write before sharing.

Writing can help:

- Quieter participants organize their thoughts
- Couples reduce impulsive responses
- Participants identify practical actions
- Sensitive topics remain private
- Discussion become more focused

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### **Keeping the Discussion Focused**

#### **Connect Comments to the Lesson**

When a comment moves away from the topic, gently redirect.

Possible responses include:

- That is an important concern. How does it connect with today's lesson?
- Let us return to the question we are discussing.

- We may need to address that topic separately.
- I want to make sure we complete today's objective.
- Let us place that question in the parking lot for future discussion.

### **Use a Parking Lot**

Create a visible list of questions or topics that cannot be addressed during the current session.

The parking lot may include:

- Future lesson topics
- Questions requiring pastoral review
- Resource requests
- Issues needing private follow-up
- Topics outside the session objective

Do not use the parking lot to dismiss serious concerns.

### **Limit Story Length**

Personal stories can be valuable, but long stories can consume the session.

Use respectful transitions:

- Thank you for sharing that experience.
- That example helps illustrate the point.
- Let us identify the principle we can take from that story.
- I want to make sure we have time for the remaining activity.
- Let us continue this conversation privately after the session.

### **Avoid Unproductive Debates**

When disagreement becomes repetitive or tense:

- Restate the lesson objective
- Clarify the biblical principle
- Acknowledge differing experiences

- Prevent personal attacks
  - Move toward application
  - Offer private follow-up
  - Involve pastoral leadership when appropriate
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## **Using Scripture Responsibly**

### **Prepare the Biblical Context**

Before teaching a passage:

- Read the surrounding verses
- Understand the intended context
- Avoid isolating a phrase
- Consult pastoral leadership when uncertain
- Distinguish biblical commands from personal preferences
- Avoid using Scripture as a weapon against a spouse

### **Encourage Personal Application**

Ask:

- What does this passage ask me to examine?
- What responsibility does this Scripture place on me?
- What behavior can I practice?
- How can this principle guide our marriage?
- What change can I make without waiting for my spouse?

### **Avoid Public Correction of a Spouse**

Do not allow participants to say:

- This verse proves my spouse is wrong.
- My husband needs to hear this.
- My wife never does this.

- This lesson describes everything my spouse fails to do.

Redirect toward personal responsibility:

- What does the passage ask each of us to examine?
- Let us focus on our own application.
- How can you practice the principle?
- What behavior is within your control?

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## **Managing Sensitive Marriage Discussions**

### **Remain Calm**

When a participant shares something emotional:

- Listen carefully
- Maintain a calm tone
- Avoid appearing shocked
- Do not rush to solve the problem
- Acknowledge the concern
- Protect privacy
- Determine whether private follow-up is needed

### **Do Not Invite Public Details**

If a participant begins sharing highly private information, respond:

- Thank you for trusting the group. Let us protect your privacy and continue this conversation privately.
- That concern deserves more time than we can provide here.
- I would like to connect you with the pastor or appropriate support.
- You do not need to provide additional details to the group.

**Avoid Taking Sides**

Do not determine which spouse is right during the group meeting.

Instead:

- Return to the lesson principle
- Encourage private reflection
- Recommend pastoral support
- Protect both spouses from public humiliation
- Avoid creating group alliances

**Recognize Warning Signs**

Immediate private follow-up may be needed when participants mention:

- Fear of a spouse
- Threats
- Physical violence
- Sexual coercion
- Child abuse
- Suicidal thoughts
- Serious addiction
- Stalking
- Destruction of property
- Access to weapons during conflict
- Severe emotional distress
- Immediate plans to leave without a safety plan

Follow church safety, reporting, and referral procedures.

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## **Responding When You Do Not Know the Answer**

Facilitators do not need to answer every question immediately.

Use statements such as:

- That is an important question. I want to research it before responding.
- I would like to consult the pastor.
- The current lesson does not address that directly.
- I do not want to give an incomplete answer.
- Let us add that question to our follow-up list.
- That concern may require professional guidance.

Never invent an answer to appear knowledgeable.

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## **Preventing Advice-Giving From Taking Over**

Participants may begin telling one another what to do.

Redirect advice into reflection.

Instead of allowing:

You should tell your husband...

Ask:

- What principle from the lesson might apply?
- What options could the couple prayerfully consider?
- What question might help them think through the situation?
- What action is consistent with the lesson?
- Would pastoral or professional guidance be appropriate?

Encourage participants to share experiences without presenting them as universal solutions.

Useful language includes:

- In our experience...

- One approach that helped us...
  - What worked for us may not fit every couple...
  - A principle we learned was...
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## **Facilitating Couple Activities**

### **Give Clear Instructions**

Before beginning an activity, explain:

- The purpose
- The steps
- The time limit
- What should remain private
- What may be shared
- What materials are needed
- What the expected outcome is

### **Protect Couple Conversations**

During private couple discussion:

- Keep background noise low
- Avoid standing too close
- Do not listen to private conversations
- Do not ask couples to report sensitive details
- Provide additional space when possible

### **Use Time Reminders**

Give reminders such as:

- You have five minutes remaining.
- Please complete your current thought.
- Take the final two minutes to identify one action.

- We will return to the group shortly.

### **Debrief the Principle, Not the Details**

After a couple activity, ask:

- What did you learn about the process?
- What communication skill was useful?
- What made the discussion easier?
- What action did you identify?
- What general insight can you share?

Do not ask couples to reveal private answers.

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### **Handling Conflict During the Group**

#### **Interrupt Disrespectful Communication**

Do not allow:

- Insults
- Shouting
- Mocking
- Threats
- Humiliation
- Name-calling
- Public accusations
- Aggressive gestures

Respond calmly:

- Let us pause.
- We need to maintain respectful communication.
- This conversation should continue privately.
- We are not going to resolve this issue in the group.

- Let us take a short break and involve the appropriate leader.

### **Separate the Public Lesson From the Private Conflict**

The small group should not become a place for live marital confrontation.

If needed:

- Pause the discussion
- Speak privately with the couple
- Contact the pastor
- Recommend counseling
- Follow safety procedures
- Arrange follow-up before the next session

### **Protect the Rest of the Group**

After an interruption:

- Reestablish calm
- Avoid discussing the couple's private situation
- Restate group expectations
- Continue only when appropriate
- End the session early if safety or emotional stability requires it

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## **Maintaining Appropriate Time Management**

### **Use a Session Plan**

A typical 60- to 90-minute session may include:

#### **Welcome and Prayer**

5 to 10 minutes

#### **Review**

5 to 10 minutes

#### **Teaching**

15 to 25 minutes

### **Guided Discussion**

15 to 20 minutes

### **Couple Activity**

10 to 20 minutes

### **Application and Closing**

10 minutes

### **Watch for Common Time Problems**

Time may be lost when:

- The opening conversation continues too long
- One participant tells a lengthy story
- The facilitator lectures
- Questions are unclear
- Instructions are repeated
- Conflict is allowed to continue
- Every question is discussed
- The session begins late

### **Prioritize the Objective**

It is better to complete one meaningful discussion and application than to rush through every question.

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### **Using Humor Wisely**

Appropriate humor can reduce tension and help participants connect.

Humor should not:

- Embarrass a spouse
- Reinforce harmful stereotypes

- Mock husbands or wives
- Minimize pain
- Target a participant
- Make light of abuse
- Include sexual comments that make participants uncomfortable
- Distract from the lesson

Use humor that is:

- Gentle
- Inclusive
- Relevant
- Respectful
- Brief

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### **Encouraging Practical Application**

Every session should end with a realistic next step.

#### **Ask for One Action**

Examples include:

- Practice one listening behavior
- Schedule one uninterrupted conversation
- Express appreciation once each day
- Discuss one decision together
- Complete one assessment section
- Pray together twice during the week
- Identify one shared ministry interest
- Review one action plan
- Use one conflict-management statement

**Make the Action Specific**

Weak action:

Communicate better.

Stronger action:

We will spend 15 minutes on Thursday evening discussing one decision without phones or interruptions.

**Encourage Accountability Without Pressure**

At the next session, ask:

- What did you notice?
- What was helpful?
- What was challenging?
- What adjustment will you make?
- What did you learn?

Do not shame couples who did not complete the activity.

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**Closing Each Session****Review the Essential Question**

Ask participants to answer the session's central question in one sentence.

**Summarize Key Points**

Identify two or three main ideas.

**Provide the Weekly Application**

Explain:

- What participants should do
- Why it matters
- How long it should take
- What they should bring to the next session

**Invite Private Follow-Up**

Explain how participants can contact:

- The facilitator
- The marriage ministry leader
- The pastor
- A counselor
- A referral resource

**Close in Prayer**

Prayer may focus on:

- Wisdom
- Humility
- Healing
- Patience
- Understanding
- Application
- Marital unity
- God's direction

Avoid revealing confidential information during public prayer.

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**After Each Session****Review the Session**

Facilitators should ask:

- Did we meet the objective?
- Was participation balanced?
- Did the discussion remain respectful?
- Did any participant require follow-up?

- Were the questions effective?
- Did the couple activity work?
- Did we manage time well?
- What should be adjusted?

**Record Follow-Up Needs**

Document only necessary information according to church policy.

Avoid keeping unnecessary private details.

**Communicate With Leadership**

Inform the appropriate church leader about:

- Safety concerns
- Referral requests
- Repeated disruptions
- Participant withdrawal
- Serious emotional distress
- Program changes
- Resource needs

**Prepare for the Next Session**

- Review feedback
  - Adjust timing
  - Clarify instructions
  - Prepare materials
  - Follow up with absent participants
  - Pray for the group
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**Encouraging Continued Attendance****Communicate the Value**

Remind participants how each session connects to the overall purpose.

**Send Reminders**

Use:

- Email
- Text messages
- Church announcements
- Group communication apps

Include:

- Date
- Time
- Location
- Topic
- Materials needed
- Encouragement

**Follow Up With Absent Participants**

Use a supportive message:

We missed you and hope everything is well. The next session will focus on \_\_\_\_\_. Please let us know whether you need the missed materials.

Avoid language that sounds punitive.

**Celebrate Progress**

Recognize:

- Consistent attendance
- Completed activities
- Honest reflection

- Practical application
- Group support
- Program completion

Do not publicly reveal private marital changes.

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## **Facilitating Virtual Marriage Groups**

### **Prepare the Technology**

- Test the meeting link
- Test the camera and microphone
- Use adequate lighting
- Reduce background noise
- Prepare digital materials
- Assign a technical support person
- Enable waiting-room features
- Protect the meeting with appropriate security

### **Establish Virtual Expectations**

Ask participants to:

- Join from a private location when possible
- Use headphones when needed
- Keep cameras on when comfortable
- Mute when not speaking
- Avoid multitasking
- Protect confidential discussions
- Use the chat respectfully

### **Use Breakout Rooms Carefully**

Breakout rooms may be used for private couple discussion.

Do not place different couples together for sensitive conversations without clear instructions and consent.

### **Increase Interaction**

Use:

- Polls
- Chat questions
- Screen sharing
- Short discussion prompts
- Breakout activities
- Digital worksheets
- Verbal check-ins

Virtual sessions often require shorter teaching segments and more frequent interaction.

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## **Facilitating Groups With Different Levels of Marital Experience**

### **Newly Married Couples**

They may benefit from:

- Expectations
- Communication habits
- Decision-making
- Conflict prevention
- Financial unity
- Family boundaries
- Purpose

### **Long-Term Married Couples**

They may benefit from:

- Renewed connection

- Changing roles
- Empty-nest transitions
- Caregiving
- Retirement
- Legacy
- Ministry service

### **Couples Experiencing Stress**

They may need:

- Clear boundaries
- Private follow-up
- Pastoral support
- Professional referral
- Reduced pressure to share
- Practical next steps

### **Ministry-Minded Couples**

They may benefit from:

- Spiritual gifts
- Purpose
- Leadership development
- Facilitator preparation
- Mentoring
- Service planning

Facilitators should avoid presenting one marriage stage as more important than another.

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**Common Facilitation Mistakes****Talking Too Much**

The facilitator should guide discussion rather than deliver a second sermon.

**Asking Questions With Obvious Answers**

Questions should promote reflection rather than test participants.

**Allowing One Person to Dominate**

Balanced participation requires active facilitation.

**Forcing Disclosure**

Participants must control what they share.

**Giving Unrequested Advice**

Facilitators should guide participants toward principles and resources.

**Taking Sides**

The group should not become a public marital dispute.

**Ignoring Safety Concerns**

Serious concerns require immediate attention and proper procedures.

**Rushing Application**

The practical action is often the most important part of the session.

**Failing to Follow Up**

Participants who request help should not be forgotten.

**Treating Every Couple the Same**

Different couples have different needs, histories, strengths, and capacities.

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## **Helpful Facilitator Statements**

### **To Begin Discussion**

- What stood out to you?
- What part of the lesson seemed most practical?
- What question did the lesson raise?
- What principle deserves more attention?
- What did you notice in the example?

### **To Encourage Participation**

- We would value another perspective.
- Would anyone who has not spoken like to respond?
- Take a moment to think before answering.
- You may pass if you prefer.
- Let us hear from both husbands and wives.

### **To Redirect Discussion**

- Let us return to the main question.
- How does that connect with today's topic?
- That concern may need private follow-up.
- Let us focus on the principle rather than the personal details.
- We will place that topic on our follow-up list.

### **To Protect Privacy**

- You do not need to share additional details.
- Let us continue that conversation privately.
- Please share only what you are comfortable discussing.
- We want to protect the privacy of everyone involved.
- The group does not need to know the full situation.

**To Manage Time**

- Let us hear one final response.
- We need to move to the application activity.
- Please complete your current thought.
- We will return to that question later.
- I want to make sure we finish the session objective.

**To Respond to a Difficult Question**

- I want to give that question proper attention.
- I need to consult the pastor before answering.
- The lesson does not fully address that concern.
- That issue may require professional guidance.
- Let us arrange private follow-up.

**To Encourage Application**

- What is one action you can take?
  - When will you practice it?
  - What might make the action difficult?
  - How can you make the step more specific?
  - What support would help you follow through?
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## **Sample Small-Group Session Agenda**

### **Session Title**

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### **Essential Question**

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### **Learning Objective**

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### **Welcome and Opening Prayer**

5 minutes

### **Review of Previous Application**

10 minutes

### **Biblical Teaching**

20 minutes

### **Guided Group Discussion**

15 minutes

### **Couple Activity**

15 minutes

### **Application Planning**

10 minutes

### **Questions and Closing Prayer**

10 minutes

### **Follow-Up Needs**

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## Facilitator Preparation Checklist

Before each session:

- ☐ Review the lesson.
- ☐ Review the Scripture references.
- ☐ Identify the essential question.
- ☐ Identify the learning objective.
- ☐ Prepare examples.
- ☐ Review discussion questions.
- ☐ Complete the activity.
- ☐ Prepare materials.
- ☐ Test technology.
- ☐ Review group expectations.
- ☐ Identify possible sensitive topics.
- ☐ Review referral procedures.
- ☐ Prepare the application assignment.
- ☐ Pray for participants.

After each session:

- ☐ Review participant engagement.
- ☐ Identify follow-up needs.
- ☐ Record attendance.
- ☐ Secure confidential materials.
- ☐ Communicate concerns appropriately.
- ☐ Review participant feedback.
- ☐ Adjust the next session.
- ☐ Contact absent participants.
- ☐ Prepare the next lesson.

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## Small-Group Discussion Evaluation

### Session Information

Session Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Couples Present: \_\_\_\_\_

### Discussion Quality

Did participants understand the lesson?

☐ Yes

☐ Partially

☐ No

Was participation balanced?

☐ Yes

☐ Partially

☐ No

Did the group remain respectful?

☐ Yes

☐ Partially

☐ No

Did couples complete the activity?

☐ Yes

☐ Partially

☐ No

Was the learning objective achieved?

☐ Yes

☐ Partially

☐ No

**Strengths**

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**Challenges**

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**Follow-Up Needs**

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**Changes for the Next Session**

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**Final Facilitator Encouragement**

Effective marriage facilitation is not measured by how much the leader talks or how many questions the leader answers.

Effective facilitation helps couples:

- Understand the biblical principle
- Reflect honestly
- Listen respectfully

- Communicate safely
- Identify practical actions
- Recognize when additional support is needed
- Continue growing beyond the session

A prepared facilitator creates structure.

A humble facilitator creates trust.

A thoughtful facilitator creates engagement.

A responsible facilitator protects participants.

A prayerful facilitator helps couples connect learning with spiritual growth.

The goal is not to create perfect discussions. The goal is to create an environment where couples can learn, reflect, grow, and take faithful next steps in their marriages.