

LAMPLIGHTERS INTERNATIONAL – DISCIPLE-MAKER TIP #9

TITLE: "BALANCING THE DISCUSSION TIME"

A common mistake some discipleship leaders make is to allocate the same amount of time for each question in the study. Let's say the group meets for an hour and there are 15 questions. By spending four minutes on each question the leader completes the lesson on time and everyone will be happy. Maybe not.

There is a better way. The discipleship leader should move quickly from one objective, factual question to another (as long as the correct answer is given) without wasting precious time required for application questions. For example, if the question is asked, "*Who is God's only begotten Son?*", you don't need to say, "*Does anyone have another answer?*" By leading the class discussion in this manner, you leave more time for a healthy, fruitful, life-changing discussion on how Biblical truths should be incorporated into their lives.

Why is this so important? One of the most famous Old Testament passages answers our question. Deuteronomy 6:4-6 says. "**Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and *shall talk of them* when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.**" The fathers were to teach their children how the commands and promises of God applied to the everyday lives of their children. Today many of the people we minister to have not been raised in Christian homes or they were not taught how to apply God's Word to their lives.

You help the group members to grow in both grace and knowledge when you balance the discussion time by helping them answer the objective questions accurately and then leading them into a rich personal application of the truths they are learning.

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