

4 Tips for Getting More Participation in Your Group



One of the **most important** things for a Precept leader to learn is **the art of listening well**. If you are doing all the talking, you are lecturing **NOT** leading a discussion. So first, make sure you are not lecturing.

4 Tips for Getting More Participation From Your Group

- **When you ask your discussion questions don't answer them yourself.**

Wait for your students to respond. You already know what you want them to see, but this is the first time they have heard this question.

- **Give them time to think about the question.**

In fact, it is good to apply the 9 second rule. Ask your question and then count to 9. It is said that it takes 3 seconds for the students to grasp hold of the question you are asking. It takes another 3 seconds for them to think about their answer, and then another 3 seconds to determine whether or not they need to be the one who responds. So as the leader, count to 9.

If no one responds after you have counted to 9, then you could

- Ask the question again
- Merely state that you are standing there all alone and need some help in this discussion. (Of course, say this with a smile on your face. ☺)
- Ask the question another way

Once someone responds then follow up with another question such as, "anyone else have anything they want to add? Any additional insights?" Then wait to see if anyone responds.

- **If there is a week with lighter homework, you could always offer an extra credit assignment.**

Some Bible study leaders have asked their students to spend time with God looking back over their lives and asking Him to show them some of the times and ways in which He had drawn or called them to Himself. Then a couple of weeks later in their discussion time they went around the room and each person shared what God had shown them. Not only is this an excellent way to be reminded of our own faith journeys and consider what we are leaving behind for those who come after us, but it is also a great way to build community in the class!

- **Use Visual Aids to enhance your discussion.**

Sometimes people may be apprehensive about participating if they are confused or unsure of what is being discussed. One leader began a study on First Thessalonians by showing pictures of Thessalonica along with the overview. The visual aid not only enhanced their interest but also gave them a mental context for studying the book.

It's always good to remember that you are learning truth along with your group, so enjoy your time together! Let them know that you are looking forward to learning from them!