

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR INTERNATIONAL SMALL GROUP BIBLE DISCUSSIONS

ENGLISH FOR LIFE

Learning with Heart and Mind

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Saturday November 23, 2002
Toronto, Ontario

- 2:00 Introduction: Jesus' Model of Small Group Leadership
- 2:20 Small Group Communication
 - Purposes of Small Groups
 - Teaching Communication Skills
- 3:00 Bible Exploration for Thoughtful Internationals
 - A Lesson from the Bible Exploration Workbooks: Luke 7:11-23
 - Adapting Bible Study Guides
- 3:50 Conclusion: Meeting Needs

Additional Resources

- A. InterVarsity's International Student Ministry website has much more on the topic. <http://www.ivcf.org/ism>
- B. ACMI, the Association of Christians Ministering to Internationals has a website and resource page. You can become a member for free. <http://www.gateman.com/acmi>
- C. My website has an expanded handout with my overheads, related papers, sample lessons, and links to other Bible study resources. <http://www.lifeenglish.net/>
- D. You may order my workbook at this conference or through the web. See me, email me at jvpayne@transtemp.com, or contact me through the website.

The Purpose of Smaller Groups for Language Learners

1. They have close contact with the person who is speaking.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Ways to Group Your Small Group

- ❖ Neighboring Pairs
- ❖ Tutoring Pairs
- ❖ Random Pairs
- ❖ Selected Pairs
- ❖ Rotating Groups
- ❖ Groups of 3 or 4
- ❖ Talking Lines
- ❖ Individual Work
- ❖ First Language Group

Types of Smaller Groups

Community-Building Groups

Task-Based Groups

Discussion Groups

Communication Strategies #1

Do you want English learners to understand what you say?

Speaking and Reading to English Learners

It **does not** help to say or read each word s-l-o-w-l-y.

It **does not** help to say or read ----each----word----separately.

It **does not** help to say or read LOUDLY.

- It helps to speak **clearly**: to open our mouth so we pronounce correctly.
- It helps to speak **naturally**, which is not word-by-word, but phrase-by-phrase.
- It helps to speak **emphatically**, emphasizing the words and phrases that carry the meaning of the sentence. (We emphasize by saying those words and phrases a little louder and a little longer.)
- It also helps to speak with **good eye contact, gestures, and movement**.

*A clear, emphatic **WHISPER** is often more powerful than a SHOUT.

Communication Strategies #2

Group Communication Key Phrases and Expressions

Asking for Focused Repetition

Ask the speaker to explain what he said. Guide the speaker to use different words, an example, or more details.

I understand this, but could you explain the other/ next/ first/ last thing you said?
Do you mean....? or Did you mean...?

Holding your Turn

Show that you want to speak, but that you need time to think first.

Well
I think

Correcting Misunderstandings

If you feel your partner did not understand you correctly, interpret and explain what you meant.

Uhm, well...actually
I think you may be mistaken

Summarizing

Repeat information or explanations briefly to show the speaker what you've understood.

Let me see if I understand. You said...
Okay, so you want me to

Getting into a Group Conversation

When you want to get into, or break into, a group conversation, you have to wait for a pause and then interrupt quickly. You could use these interruption phrases:

Excuse me. I have something to add here.
Could I ask you a question?

Going Back to Earlier Topics

If you miss the chance to say what you want to say, you can often go back to it later in the conversation.

Going back to what we were talking about earlier...
Could we go back to [state the topic] that we were discussing earlier?

Adapted directly from Levine, Deena R, Jim Baxter, Piper McNulty,
The Culture Puzzle: Cross Cultural Communication for English as a Second Language,
New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1987.

Communication Strategies #3

Active Participation in Group Discussions

Key Phrases and Expressions

Leaders and active participants in group discussions or meetings do the following:

Initiate	Begin discussion, bring up new ideas and topics, and make suggestions.
Ask	Ask people for opinions, information, and explanations.
Offer	Offer opinions and give information when needed.
Repeat	Repeat ideas, information, or explanations for the rest of the group when something was not understood.
Summarize	Summarize information to make sure that something has been understood.
Encourage	Encourage people to speak by being cooperative and by accepting different points of view.

Initiate

Perhaps we could begin by discussing our problem.
Could I suggest that we get everyone's opinion on that?

Ask

Ms. Smith, could you tell us what you think?
I'm not clear about this. Could someone explain it to me?

Offer

I believe that there isn't much more we can do.
In my opinion there are only two choices.

Repeat

Can I repeat that for anyone?
I'm not sure if everyone heard. Let me repeat that.

Summarize

So you'd like us to discuss this at the next meeting.
You mean we all need to meet one more time before we can decide?

Encourage

I hope we can all talk about this, even though some of us may disagree.
Noga, you haven't had a chance to give your thoughts on this. What do you think?

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