

Dos and Don'ts for Beginning Your Groups

- DO remember that you are a co-learner in the group, and DON'T feel you have to know all the answers.
- DO prepare the lesson thoroughly each week, making use of the online Discussion Tips, and DON'T simply read through each question and answer.
- DO begin and end on time out of respect for the group members, but DON'T be so much a slave to time that people feel they cannot add to a discussion point.
- DO arrange seating so that all members are able to see and hear each other, and DON'T sit in the same places each time you meet. Mix it up a bit.
- DO establish a climate of hospitality but DON'T make the group primarily a social gathering.
- DO encourage, affirm, and support participants and DON'T be afraid to offer help to someone who is struggling to get started.
- DO allow and encourage everyone to be involved in the discussion, but generally DON'T force every person to speak. Allow brief times of silence on occasion.
- DO focus on the goals of growing in faith, understanding, and community and DON'T let a disagreement become a setback.
- DO recognize that each person in the group is valuable and unique and DON'T forget that the variety of experiences can enrich the group.