

# Qualities of Small Group Facilitators

Facilitating a Scripture study group is a ministry of the word of God. In all ministries of the church, God gives the Holy Spirit to encourage and support us, to give us what we need to do the work to which we are called. God builds on the desires, temperaments, and talents of individuals to do this work.

When considering potential small group facilitators, look for women and men with the qualities that are suited to this type of ministry, and who are willing to hone their skills through reading and experience.

Potential facilitators would be:

- ✓ Perceived as faithful parishioners.
- ✓ Open to growing their faith and helping others do the same.
- ✓ Active and engaged listeners.
- ✓ Organized and responsible.
- ✓ Aware of personal limitations and willing to seek help.
- ✓ Able to work well in a group, putting others at ease.
- ✓ Genuinely concerned for and understanding of others.
- ✓ Tolerant and respectful of differing opinions and experiences.
- ✓ Open to a wide diversity of people.
- ✓ Able to bring out ideas and gifts of others.
- ✓ Willing and able to commit the time and energy required.

Begin making a list of those you can identify right now as possible small group facilitators.

## **BASIC TASKS FOR FACILITATORS**

- Listen attentively to each person in the group.
- Encourage participation from each person according to their abilities.
- Help keep the discussion focused on the topic.
- Deal with any problems forthrightly and courteously.
- Support each member of the group with personal concern.
- Model good group interaction skills (see 10 Guiding Principles for Small Group Discussion.)