

# GROUP DISCUSSION

## COPING WITH THE GROUP MEMBER WHO TALKS TOO LITTLE

IF YOU LEAD A GROUP FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME, YOU WILL ALSO HAVE THAT GROUP MEMBER WHO SIMPLY DOES NOT TALK ENOUGH. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THE GROUP MEMBER PROBABLY HAS CONSTRUCTIVE THINGS TO GIVE TO THE DISCUSSION.

SOME OF THE TIPS BELOW COME FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF OUR OTHER GROUPS AND RESOURCES.

- **DON'T JUMP THE GUN.** If your group is relatively new, or this group member is relatively new, be patient. It takes some people more time to get comfortable in a group setting.
- **MAKE EYE CONTACT.** Eye contact can influence someone's participation. If you want to draw conversation out of someone, sometimes it is easy as making eye contact.
- **SIT ACROSS FROM THE QUIET PERSON.** When you sit right across from someone, you are most likely going to be looking at this person often during the group.
- **USE SUBGROUPS.** If you are leading a Couple's group, divide the husbands and wives. If you are leading a Men's or Women's group, divide the group into half. When the group gets smaller and smaller, it seems to make some people more prone to participating in the discussion.
- **HAVE THIS PERSON READ THE SCRIPTURE TEXT FOR THE GROUP.** Sometimes it is just as easy as getting someone talking via the scriptures to get them going.
- **SET THE GROUP MEMBER UP FOR SUCCESS.** Give the quiet group member a preview to the topic and questions. Or, require everyone in the group to answer an introductory question; by requiring everyone to answer, the quiet group member is forced to participate.
- **CALL ON THE PERSON DIRECTLY.** Once a rapport is built, you can simply call on the person and ask for them to give their thoughts or ideas.
- **PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE.** When the group member does finally participate in the discussion, praise them for sharing with the group