

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES FOR FAITH SHARING

1. Silence is a vital part of faith sharing. A short reflection time should precede any group sharing. Silence between sharing might also occur.
2. Share your own personal experiences as they relate to your faith, relationship with God and the gospel. Sharings should be brief responses, 2-3 minutes.
3. The faith sharing time is not a time for group therapy or problem solving. It is also not a time to focus on personal problems unrelated to the faith sharing questions.
4. Listening attentively to the sharing of others is a very important part of the process.
 - Do not respond to the person who has shared*
 - Do not discuss what they have shared*
 - Do not interrupt or cross talk while the sharing is taking place*
5. The entire group is responsible for faith sharing – not just the few who share more easily. Each person has their unique story to contribute and no story is better than another.
6. Usually each person responds only once to each question so that others have an opportunity to share. At most, there should be two responses per question.
7. Faith sharing is not a time for analyzing the scripture or for trying to figure out what Jesus is saying to the world. It is a time for sharing specific, personal experiences of how God has touched you – what do you hear the scripture saying to you.
8. Faith sharing is confidential allowing each person to share honestly.
9. Rather than respond to another's sharing, simply reflect on it and then share for yourself. It may seem similar but each sharing will bring something unique.
10. Each person is encouraged to share on the level where they feel comfortable and no one is forced to share on any questions.
11. Faith sharing is meant to stimulate action – a response in our own daily lives – either through our own reflection or in our listening to others in the group.