



Facilitation Exercise

This is an exercise to help prepare for facilitating discussions using the Pivot discussion guides. This is a great exercise for church leaders or others whom you may ask to facilitate a group.

Have people get into groups of 4-6 people. Cut out the cards on the following page, and start by passing them out so that each person in the group has a card (if the group has fewer than 6, make sure that someone has the facilitator's card). The facilitator should announce their role, but encourage others to keep their role a secret, and instead act it out and let others guess what each person's card was at the end.

Instruct facilitators to lead their group into choosing a guide to discuss. They should kick off the discussion and aim to cover 1 question per page on the guide. Remind them to use the facilitator's checklist on their card to help them practice good facilitation skills! This exercise should be limited to 15 minutes, with an option to trade roles and repeat the exercise.

Afterwards, ask people to share what emotions they felt during that discussion. What feelings or thoughts came up? How might those feelings compare to how someone new to the church might feel in a discussion like this?

You know everything

about scripture. You love preaching to the group, even when others are not interested. Your strength is that you're great at tying scripture into the conversation and reminding people of its importance.

You love talking

and tend to dominate the conversation. You like to have some response for every question (even if not relevant) and you don't mind interrupting people in doing so. However, you're great at asking questions and filling awkward silence.

You came to this group to argue.

You like phrases such as "that's not true" or "you're wrong". Your strength is that you challenge the group to see things from a different perspective.

You are totally new

to this group and to Christianity. You need a little more explanation for any biblical references and will need to ask others to help you understand. Your strength is that by asking these questions, you might help get someone to clarify a concept that the whole group was confused about.

You are very quiet and shy.

You don't like to talk unless someone directly invites you to answer a question, and even then you might only give a one-word response. Your strength is that you're a great listener and you're great at summarizing key learnings from the discussion.

You are the facilitator!

Use this checklist to help guide your facilitation skills:

1. I talked less than 10% of the time.
2. Most eye contact was between members, and not between members and me.
3. I asked more questions than made statements.
4. My group was characterized by love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
5. I had at least one key learning from today that I will remember.
6. Everyone in my group participated or was given the opportunity to participate.