

- **Pray for discernment.**

Learn the difference between those who are sincerely seeking the truth and those who have a self-centered agenda, those who have been duped by doctrine that is not sound.

2 Timothy 4: 3 // “The time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.”

Pray for discernment to recognize those with itching ears. And for those with teachable hearts, be compassionate, gracious and patient. Welcome any and all questions from those who are genuinely seeking God’s heart and will for their lives. Let them see it in your eyes and feel it in the way you respond with grace to their questions.

- **Avoid cross-examinations.**

Be objective. Analyze the ideas and the reasoning, but don’t use cross-examination to make people look foolish. Some topics that are not beneficial to the group discussion could be bounced offline by saying something like: “That’s really very interesting, but I don’t think we can give it the time it deserves right now. Maybe we could set up a time later this week to talk about it for anyone who is interested.”

- **Practice truth and grace.**

Imagine what Jesus communicated with his face when he talked with the woman caught in the act of adultery, the Samaritan woman at the well, Zachaeus and Nicodemus, just to name a few. Jesus had a good poker face! He also didn’t pull any punches with those who had twisted the Scriptures with their self-righteous agenda. Jesus was courageous and compassionate. He was tough and tender.

- **Create an environment where there is no condemnation, but lots of accountability.**



# GOOD DISCUSSION [TIPS FOR GROUP LEADERS]



Save \$5 with coupon code: tiercegreen  
Order resources at [authenticmanhoodinitiative.com](http://authenticmanhoodinitiative.com)

**AUTHENTIC  
MANHOOD**  
**INITIATIVE**  
[AUTHENTICMANHOODINITIATIVE.COM](http://AUTHENTICMANHOODINITIATIVE.COM)

**TIERCE GREEN**  
[TIERCEGREEN.COM](http://TIERCEGREEN.COM)

# GOOD DISCUSSION TIPS FOR TABLE LEADERS

THE GOAL IS TO CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT WHERE MEN CAN ENGAGE IN CONVERSATIONS WHILE EXPERIENCING TRUE COMMUNITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

## 1. 3 GUIDELINES

- **Don't reteach the session.**  
This probably applies more to you than to others in your group. Each session is already packed with content. Your objective is to help men process and consider personal applications. Don't avoid teachable moments, just teach more by leading in discussion than by lecturing.
- **Don't dominate the discussion.**  
This applies to everyone. Some people will have something to say about everything. Don't allow one or two people to dominate the discussion, and don't rely on those who are always eager to contribute to carry the conversation.
- **Be sure everyone has a chance to talk, if they want to.**  
Be aware of the contributions of those who tend to be quieter. Try to bring them into the discussion by validating their comments. Your objective is not to get everyone to talk, just to create an environment where everyone knows that can contribute, if they want to.

## 2. STAYING ON TRACK

1 Corinthians 10:23-24 // "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others."

- **The strategic use of questions.**  
Good questions can keep things moving forward and on track. They can also provide a good transition to keep some from dominating the discussion. The questions in the Training Guide are intended to provide a framework for discussion, however, your objective is not to ask and answer every question. There may be times when the written questions aren't needed because the conversation just naturally begins.
- **Encourage your group to keep the conversation going through the week.**

## 3. PINBALL vs. PING PONG

- **Ping Pong discussions focus on dispensing information.**  
A ping pong leader serves his knowledge to the group which he sees as his classroom. Some may return the serve, and the leader may hit it back to them, but it's pretty much a back and forth volley between the leader and those with more outgoing personalities. Others are just spectators. Your objective is to facilitate discussion, not just dispense information.
- **Pinball discussions keep the conversation going between individuals in the group, not just with the leader.**  
The leader controls the flippers! The objective is to keep the ball in play, bouncing back and forth between the pins. The discussion is more conversational and natural. It feels more like a community than a classroom.

## 4. PRIMING THE PUMP

The phrase "priming the pump" has been applied to economic stimulus, but it originally referred to water well hand pumps. When you first operated the pump, you had to prime it, moving the lever up and down several times to create suction in the pipe, drawing water up out of the well and into the pump to start it flowing. Once that occurred you only had to pump the lever once or twice to increase the flow. With that in mind, think of how you can prime the pump in leading discussion.

- **Share *your* story.**  
What are *your* big takeaways from the session? How do the principles apply to *you*? What are *your* Strategic Moves?
- **Prepare others to share *their* story.**  
As the conversation continues in between sessions, pay attention to what God is doing in the lives of others in your group. Ask them if they would share a few minutes of their story with the rest of the group.

## 5. A GOOD POKER FACE

This is a critical component in helping you create a safe place where everyone feels the freedom to share. When someone comes out of left field with a comment, you need a good poker face. Even if what they are saying sounds ridiculous, you can't communicate with your facial expressions that you think it's one of the dumbest things you've ever heard. If you do, you'll not only crush them, you might shut down everyone else. So, no eye rolling or raised eyebrows. No heavy sighs. No smirks. Learn to be a little more shock-proof.