

How to plan a housegroup session

The most important thing to firstly decide is what you want everyone to get out of your session. In order to help you do this, ask yourself:

“By the end of the session what do I want people to be able to do or know?”

Ask God to guide you in this, by praying beforehand.

For a short session of one hour, you will probably have 3 or 4 objectives at the most.

The objectives of this resource are, that by the time you have read this, you will be able to:

- Write achievable objectives
- Describe the structure of a session
- List some things to make a session interesting

To write good objectives you need some good verbs (doing words). When using these words, it will be easy for you to see if your objectives have been met at the end.

Action verbs for Objectives

Some good objective verbs		Not so good objective words
Describe	List	Appreciate
Compare	Name	Believe
Define	Outline	Know
Depict	Recite	Understand
Describe	Recount	Be aware of
Explain	Relate	Have knowledge in
Itemise	Select	Capable of
Express	Specify	Comprehend
		Familiar with
		Memorise

The words on the right are not good to use because you cannot easily observe any behaviour. Can you see if someone “understands” or “believes”? If they are asked to “list” or “describe” you can then see if they understand.

What about the structure of a session?

Like a good story, a session should have a beginning, a middle and an end.

Beginning	Prayer that God speaks through you and inspires the group – can be done by someone else. Icebreaker? Introduction Attention grabber? Interesting quotation from an eminent person Overview of what you will speak about Expectations of the evening – objectives and what you will discuss How long you will take Can you ask questions at any time?
Middle*	This is where you will put the bulk of what you are going to discuss From the objectives you should have a list of the points you need to get across in order to meet your objectives Go through each point in order Have a list of questions for each point to make people think and engage What has your research uncovered? What are the key passages? What are the key messages, as you have understood it? How does this apply to real life?
End	Summarise what you have discussed Go over the objectives and check to see they have been met Ask people what has stood out for them Ask people how God has spoken to them through the verses, the discussions Ask how people will apply this to their lives

*It is worth noting that the resources on the [Leeds Vineyard website resources](#) can really help you to fill out your session. Once you have decided what you want the session to be about (sometimes looking at the site can help you do that even!), you can then look at some of the talks and bible references to help support your session.

Other top tips:

- **Pray**
- **Listen**
- **Be yourself**
- **Let God work through you**
- **Enjoy.....**

How to make a session interesting

