



The Mission of The Pittsburgh Experiment is to encourage men and women in the workplace to seek and share Jesus Christ in every aspect of life.

THE ROLE OF THE LEADER

Groups function best and more people grow spiritually when the leadership is rotated from meeting to meeting. Ideally, every person in the group at some time should be given a chance to serve as a leader of a meeting. However, this may not be practical. Some individuals will not and cannot act in this capacity. Therefore only volunteers should be used as leaders.

The leader does not assume the role of spiritual teacher. He simply starts the meeting, calls for the transitions from the study period to sharing session to prayer session. He sees that meetings begin and end on time.

The leader does perform the function of silencing the overly talkative in a friendly way and checking members who take the discussion off on a a. He should guard against advice-giving by himself or someone else. He should see that arguments do not develop on the interpretation of some portion of scripture. As someone has put it: "There is more in the Bible that we do understand and fail to live out than that which we don't understand."

The leader should try to draw out every person in the group so that there is full participation. No one, of course, should be forced to talk, but it should be made clear that each has something unique to contribute to the discussion, something that no one else can make.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Never let the meeting become an end in itself. The group experience is an instrument which God uses to help persons grow and mature as Christians during the time between meetings.

Impose a time limit on the length of your meeting. Usually one and a half or two hours is sufficient. It is always better to terminate a meeting while interest is high rather than to let it drift on until people get weary or bored.

Talk over special disciplines which the group may want to accept for itself; daily prayer for one another, Bible reading, regular church worship, tithing, a definite commitment to share your faith with others. Each group should agree upon its own disciplines.

Don't panic if periods of silence arise. These can be occasions when God speaks most clearly to us.

Avoid comment or criticism on one another's experiences or convictions. This tends to place judgment on others and stifles freedom of expression.





The Mission of The Pittsburgh Experiment is to encourage men and women in the workplace to seek and share Jesus Christ in every aspect of life.

THE ROLE OF THE LEADER OTHER SUGGESTIONS *Continued*

It needs to be emphasized periodically that the group's effectiveness is everyone's responsibility. That is, everyone must feel responsible to keep at his own disciplined prayer and devotional life and to report on his progress in making his faith workable in all his relationships and endeavors.

As the meetings progress, you will probably experience certain times when God's guidance and direction are very strong; other times meetings may seem rather dull and uneventful. This is the natural ebb and flow of growth. However, if the meetings tend to bog down habitually, call a special re-evaluation meeting. Review your group disciplines. Have a time of quiet in which each member asks God to pinpoint the particular area where he himself is off base. After one such evaluation, meeting, one newer person admitted he had a resentment against an older, experienced member of the group. Another said he harbored unresolved hostility toward a co-worker in his office. Someone else admitted he had not been seriously trying to apply what he had learned in his relationship with his teenage son. After this time of honest confession and prayer, the group resumed its course with new enthusiasm.

If you sense a special need in another person, arrange to see him some-where outside the group. Sometimes there are blocks in our spiritual growth that are more easily shared and prayed through on a one-to-one basis, rather than in a group.

The test of the group's effectiveness will never be "how good the meetings were," but rather what resulted in people's lives. The criteria for judging the group's success or failure should be: "Are individuals taking new steps in faith?" and "Is society being favorably affected?"

