



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 PITTSBURGH EXPERIMENT GROUP LEADER

The leader is not a spiritual teacher, but rather, a facilitator. The leader starts the meeting and moves it through the "Basic Meeting Format." The leader sees that the meeting starts on time and ends on time. The leader welcomes and allows for the introduction of new people and gives a brief summary of what The Pittsburgh Experiment is and the nature and purpose of the meeting.

Groups function best and more people grow spiritually when the leadership is rotated from meeting to meeting. At some time every person in the group should be given the chance to serve as the leader. The basic Pittsburgh Experiment group meeting format is that simple, so that each person who has attended two meetings should be able to lead the third meeting. Emotionally, however, a person may not be ready to do so, and thus sensitivity in this regard is essential.

The leader should be sensitive to people who can take the meeting off track and in a friendly way utilize the guidelines "Keeping the Meeting on Track."

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

The leader at some point during a meeting needs to highlight the importance of spiritual disciplines, such as the morning prayer, the 30-day prayer experiment, devotional Bible reading. No one, however, should be pushed to do anything. A way in which "discipline" can get emphasized is, for example, in the meeting to ask for reports on 30-day prayer experiments.

There are times when meetings can become slower in starting, less vulnerable, with participants talking about things that could be discussed anywhere, or less involved in the sharing of their spiritual pilgrimage. It is at this time that a leader can say, as a leader did one time, "I don't know how you feel, but I feel cheated and unfed because you aren't sharing your lives with me anymore ... I didn't even want to come here today." It worked! The group members went around the table sharing why they weren't vulnerable. The leader also needs to help the group be sensitive to the importance of one-to-one contact between meetings for support, spiritual growth, and to deal with things not easily shared or appreciated in the group process.

Someone has said, "The test of a 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 favorable affected?"

