

Connection before content

Spend time firstly on helping people connect. If this is a new group, allow time for people to understand who is in the room. Even if it's a group that meets regularly, having time for reconnecting is important. Often this is over food (e.g. supper, snack, a meal)! When we look at Jesus' life and the time he spent talking with and eating with people, we can see how he knew connection was critical, e.g. John 9: **9** As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. **10** While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples.

Think Pair Share

Think

Get people to spend a minute thinking by themselves. Maybe get people to jot some thoughts down

Pair

Turn to the person next to you and discuss the question

Share

Now ask for response in the group and/or go around the room asking for contributions

For more information – check out: [Pair and pause for deeper conversations](#)

What do we see in scripture about facilitating small groups?

Romans 12:10 be devoted to one another

Romans 13:8 love one another

Romans 15:7 accept one another

2 Cor 13:11 encourage one another

Ephesians 4:2 bear with one another

Ephesians 4:32 be kind and compassionate

Ephesians 5:19 speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs

Col 3:16 teach and admonish one another

1 Thess 5:11 build each other up

Hebrews 10:24 spur one another on to love and good deeds

Connection before content

THINK (quietly/individually)

PAIR (chat with neighbour)

SHARE (went round the room)

Introverts ✓

Everyone involved

means we actually listen
not just thinking about what
we will say

filtering

digging deeper - spurring more ideas

Safe way for new people to share

Everyone gets chocolate

affirmation / emphasise

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12 disciples doing life

Acts 2:42 hospitality & serving each other

early church - small house church

- team leadership

eating with tax collectors

Mt 18:20 two or three gathered - God is there

> Lydia - meeting at the river side
celebrating together

Deut 6 - teach at home & travelling
as you go, together

○ Lord's supper

Comfort & encourage each other

In 20 Exhort & rebuke (Peter do you
love me?)

↳ bringing life into interactions
(relevance & application)
modes of teaching

Acts 6 - apostles oversight devolved to
the seven - different groups
with different needs

leaders full of the Spirit & wisdom
prayer & sent & commissioned
everyone brings/contributes