CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS
GROUPWORDS

Even the best of Small Groups have problems. But if the members of a group are committed to each other and to the overall mission of the Small Group Ministry, difficulties can be solved.

Here are some common Small Group challenges along with some suggested solutions:

SYMPTOM — Members come late.
UNDERLYING ISSUE — There is a group habit of starting late.
SUGGESTED APPROACH — Set a definite time. Communicate that time and begin promptly regardless. Send a group text the day before sharing the scripture, topic and your excitement.

SYMPTOM — The overly quiet group members.
UNDERLYING ISSUE — Questions might be too personal or too difficult. There may be a lack of trust or affirmation. A few members may be dominating the discussion.
SUGGESTED APPROACH — Go around the circle with each person answering. Allow more time. Affirm the answers of everyone.

SYMPTOM — The overly talkative member.
UNDERLYING ISSUE — Outgoing, doesn't like silence. Reaches conclusions too quickly.
SUGGESTED APPROACH — Talk to this member privately about giving others time to respond. Ask for their help in drawing others out. Discuss the value of silence.

SYMPTOM — The "always-right" member
UNDERLYING ISSUE — They are always right. They don't plan to learn from others. They find is difficult or threatening to "rethink."
SUGGESTED APPROACH — Affirm their comments, but then encourage other viewpoints — *"What do some of the rest of you think?"* Avoid debating in the group setting.

SYMPTOM — Superficial sharing.
UNDERLYING ISSUE — The lesson application may not be specific enough.
SUGGESTED APPROACH — The leader can set an example of open sharing. Ask for more specific examples. Follow general questions with deeper follow-up questions

SYMPTOM — Ingrown group.
UNDERLYING ISSUE — No clear purpose. Fear of new members.
SUGGESTED APPROACH — Review the over-all purpose of the Small Group ministry – To provide an entry-point for new and hurting members who could easily get lost in a large church setting.