

How to Respond When You Don't Know the Answer

You're not always going to have the answer... and that's more than okay!

Your role as a Connect Group facilitator is to facilitate discussion and connect people, not be a Biblical scholar. There will be times group members ask tough questions and you're not sure how to respond. Here are some suggestions:

- 1. Admit you don't know. No one knows everything about Scripture, and it's okay to acknowledge that! Don't feel like you need to be an authority. You can reply to tough questions with responses like, "I've never thought of it that way," or "I'm not sure right now. Let me spend some time thinking about that this week." If you feel conflicted for not knowing an answer, consider Proverbs 11:2: "Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."
- 2. Ask other group members for their thoughts. Encourage others to share their opinions. Group members come with varied education and experiences, and they have all kinds of answers and insights that you might not have yet.
- 3. **Promise to follow up.** It's important that your group members believe that you want to answer their questions, even if you don't immediately have the answer. Let them know you'll investigate their question and try to provide a better answer at the next meeting.
- 4. **Pray and get into the Word.** You can find the answer to any question in the Bible it's the world's greatest resource! Sifting through all the wisdom may feel intimidating, but trust that God will help you find the answer. Pray about the question and ask God to help you find the solution. Then dig into the Word and allow Him time to reveal the answer to you.
- 5. Seek guidance from others. If a question is unresolved, seek help before your next meeting. Ask other Connect Group leaders or friends for guidance or wisdom. If you're close with a pastor or member of your church, ask what they think.
- 6. **Use the Internet.** This can be a tricky tactic, as you can't trust everything you read online. However, there are several great resources that may have just the answer you need (or can point you in the right direction). Google the question or subject and look for reputable resources such as church websites, online ministries, or pastors' blogs with thoughts on the topic. Consider commentaries such as this one by <u>David Guzik</u>.