

Core Leader as a Shepherd Core Group Timing

Keeping track of the pace of your core group time is one of the most difficult things to do, because the lesson changes each week! And yet it is also one of the most important things that you do as facilitator of the group. Your goal as a facilitator is to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to contribute to the answers, and that the group finishes the lesson! How do we keep that balance? While going over your own lesson during Leaders Council, here are some tips:

- Mark a halfway point in the lesson: the TD can help with that.
- Watch the flow in leaders' discussion –
- Are there questions that required extra time? Note this on your lesson and be prepared during core group time for the same extra time.
- Does the lesson get finished faster than usual? Be prepared for this and note questions that perhaps your core group could spend more time answering.

During Core Group time, have a watch to help you keep track of the time.

What if during Core Group we have extra time?

- Ask for more input - additional perspective, especially on the personal questions.
- Go over the memory verse for the week or previous weeks.
- Allow more time for prayer.

What do we do when we are running late and need to speed up to end on time?

- It is always best to be aware of questions that require less time for answers and move on thru these with one answer if it is sufficient.
- Ask for the group's help - One answer per question, encourage less dead air - quick responses.
- If you are running late but you have finished the questions, skip the apply what you have learned - encourage them to read it on their own.
- Make a general prayer to close and encourage them to pray for each other throughout the week.

Questions:

1. When the group is running fast, the best thing is to encourage more discussion. What are some of the ways we can do that? How do we ask for additional input?

2. When the group is running slow, how can we gently and naturally speed the process up? How do we encourage quick concise responses?