

## **ADULT LEADER DOs and DON'Ts**

**DO** affirm and encourage all day long!

**DO** value students' input and opinions:

Do whatever it takes to affirm the comments of the student/teammates input, but do not be artificial with your praise. Be delicate with answers that are clearly wrong (we don't need to make them feel stupid). Do not feel like you have to finish, complete or correct a student's answer. You could say, "What does everyone else think about what \_\_\_\_\_ said?"

**DON'T** feel like you have to know all the answers:

We are all human, and it's good for our students/teammates to see that you are limited and don't know all the answers. If you don't know the answer of the question, have everyone in the group look for the answer during the week. Showing the students that you are still a learner is actually leading! It gives your group an opportunity to learn how to study God's Word. Staff is available! Don't hesitate to ask a pastor or staff member.

**DON'T** talk more than the students:

Generate discussion. Ask students/teammates to explain their answers and go into more depth. Allow multiple students to respond, even if the person you asked first gets the "right" answer. You can always go back to the question, "So what do you think about what he/she said?"

**DO** ask students if they have questions:

Encourage students/teammates to deal with the material on their own terms. Create a climate where people feel the freedom to ask any questions. You could say something like "I had a lot of things pop out to me while reading this, what popped out to you? What questions do you have?"

**DO** handle small issues:

No student is perfect. We are dealing with raging chemical imbalances as teenage bodies grow into adulthood. Because of this you may come across issues or actions that need discipline. Discipline is a form of discipleship. For this reason, we asked leaders to deal with discipline with extreme caution and wisdom. NEVER PHYSICALLY PUSH, HIT, HOLD, or TOUCH a student as a form of discipline! We encourage the leaders to deal with minor issues. Our desire is for our students and leaders to feel safe!

**DO** require to maintain confidentiality:

This will allow students to open up because they feel their environment is safe. However, please...

**DO** ask for back up when needed!

**DO NOT** keep potentially dangerous information to yourself. (Reference Mandated Reporting document)