

Creative Best Practices

- Create a bracket related to the topic (e.g., during *Asking for a Friend* series, could have your group come up with 16 questions that they think people are asking, and then vote on the questions tournament-style on which is the most common question)
- Take your group on a prayer walk throughout the church and pray over Student Ministries, other small groups, the church, etc.
- Use an Icebreaker to get students comfortable talking in group (*Ideas below*)
- Changing posture for prayer each week. Kneel for prayer, raise hands up in prayer, pray with eyes open, stand and hold hands in prayer, break into smaller groups to pray
- Meet in a new space every once in a while
- Instead of sharing prayer requests, each student prays for their own requests one by one, with each subsequent student also praying for the requests already prayed for again.
- Have a designated spot each week where students drop their phone off when they come for small group discussion to remove distractions
- Set up a group chat with your students (GroupMe is a great app if you have multiple phone brands in the group)
- Let students be in charge of discussion (let the student know ahead of time)
- Make it clear to students that it's their group and their responsibility to make it whatever they want it to be
- Do a devotional together to start the group, and have them do the other 4 days during the week on their own
- Aim for half the time to be relational
- "For the next question, break into groups of three and answer them with each other, then bring it back to the main group"
- "In the middle of my prayer, it will be silent, and during that silence, pray silently to God for the requests that were shared"
- Relate to students on their level, or else they'll think you're preaching to them. Share about your own story
- Communicate with students regularly, not just on Sunday
- REMEMBER - Some of your students may never want to go deep. That's OK
- Do a 1 on 1 or 2 on 1 check in at the end of group each week with a different student
- Write down students' prayer requests or something they talked about so that you can remember to follow up with them later
- Tie something from the message to your story
- Ask students if they've ever heard of the topic, or if they can explain it in their own words
- Ask students how they would apply the discussion topic in their lives (at school, on their teams, at home)
- Skip some or all the discussion questions and do your own (*ideas below*)

Icebreakers

- Ask about what's going on in students' lives throughout the week (e.g., "How was soccer this week?", "What's a funny story from this week?", "Highs/lows of your week?")
- What's your favorite
- Would you rather have eyebrows that move around your face while you talk OR fingernails that grow an inch every time you burp
- Would you rather only be able to walk and never run or only be able to run and never walk?

- Would you rather never have air conditioning or never be able to wear deodorant?
- Would you rather kiss a toad or get bit by a rattlesnake?
- Would you rather be able to fly or be invisible?
- Would you rather Raising Cane's or Chick-Fil-A?
- If you had lots of money, what unnecessary thing would you splurge on (i.e. a private plane, concert tickets)?
- What's the best joke that you know?
- If you were famous, what would you want to be famous for?
- What is your favorite smell and why?
- If you had to be Siamese twins with someone, who would you want it to be?
- If you had to pick one song to listen to for the rest of your life, which one would it be?