

CFM Leader Support: *encouragement and support for leaders*



Christian Family
Movement



MAKE FRIENDS | MAKE DISCIPLES | MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

REDIRECTING CONVERSATIONS

When a discussion goes off track, or is dominated by a single person, it can be frustrating and sometimes intimidating. But if you, as a group leader, are frustrated, no doubt others in the group are as well, and they are likely hoping that someone will jump in! Sometimes it's hard to decide if you should jump in, or if the conversation is helpful to others.



Fortunately there are some easy ways to steer the conversation back on track, and give others the opportunity to contribute!

Let's get those conversations back on track!



TRY THESE KEY PHRASES

WHEN ONE PERSON DOMINATES THE DISCUSSION

- **"I hear what you're saying, but let's shift gears and get back to..."**
This phrase is a gentle way to redirect the conversation while still acknowledging the other person's contribution.
- **"Excuse me Jack, but it looks like Kathy has something she wants to say..."**
Sometimes you can spot someone who keeps trying to say something, but can't find a break in the conversation. This is a great way not only to give that person time to speak, but also quiet the person that's been dominating.
- **"It would be great to hear some other perspectives on this topic..."**
This is a very simple way to not only be inclusive, but give the dominating participant a break.

TRY THESE

WHEN THE CONVERSATION IN GENERAL GETS OFF TRACK & NOW THE WHOLE GROUP IS GOING IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION

- “These are very interesting points everyone is making, but I would like to get back to the topic of this chapter so that we have time to get into the next set of questions (or actions)” This is an easy way to remind everyone that we are all there for the same reason and that is to discuss the current chapter!
- “It seems like everyone has a lot to say on this topic - I would, however, like to steer us back to the topic for this chapter” Similar to above, we have a purpose for getting together, and we need to get back to that purpose.
- “Speaking of XX, when researching this topic, I found out that....” If there is anything in the conversation that is remotely related to the topic you should be discussing, grab on to it and use it to gently redirect the group.
- “You know what, I just remembered something I wanted to share...” This is a way to pivot the conversation to a new topic without making it seem forced. By mentioning that you just remembered something, you give the impression that the redirect is spontaneous and natural.
- “I’m not sure I understand enough about what you’re discussing. Can we talk about [original topic] instead?” Gentle reminder that as the group leader, you (and others) have prepared for the topic at hand.



Take heart, fearless leader, and use your best judgement.
 Many times the clock can be your guide-
 Time to move on!

Click on our leader resources below!



Promotional
Materials



Online
Membership Form



Leader
Handbook



ACT
Newsletter



Christian Family Movement-USA



@cfmstagram



www.cfm.org

1-800-581-9418

P.O. Box 266 Dexter, MI 48130

office@cfm.org