

TROUBLESHOOTING

EVERY GROUP HAS THE OCCASIONAL CHALLENGE; EVERY GROUP WILL AT TIMES FACE A BUMP IN THE ROAD. BELOW ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF COMMON CHALLENGES THAT OUR GROUP LEADERS HAVE EXPERIENCED.

SOME OF THE TIPS BELOW COME FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF OTHER GROUPS AND RESOURCES.

- **CRITICISM FROM GROUP MEMBERS.** This must be addressed, whether it be in the group setting or afterwards. When a group member is critical of the group, other members, the church, or the staff, you must step up. You are the leader of the group. Address the source of the criticism; send to staff person if necessary.
- **GROUP MEMBER PROMOTES FALSE THEOLOGY.** Put the good of the group over the good of the person. If that means stepping on the toes of the group member, so be it. Establish the Bible as God's Word, and as the basis for all discussion.
- **GROUP MEMBER REACHES THE WRONG CONCLUSION FROM SERMON OR DISCUSSION.** When this happens, you must redirect them back to Scripture, or get the group involved to give their thoughts or conclusions.
- **A DIFFICULT QUESTION IS RAISED.** A skill that every leader needs to develop is how to say, "I don't know." Then, agree to research the question and provide an answer during the next group setting.
- **A CONTROVERSIAL QUESTION IS RAISED.** You must acknowledge that Christians hold different views on a variety of topics. You must acknowledge that the group is not going to settle this question for all Christians for all time in this one discussion. You must then focus on what the opposing opinions have in common.