

- **LifeGroups at GCR are small communities of believers who joyfully exist to Win, Build, Equip and Multiply disciples of Jesus Christ for the glory of God**
- **Every Meeting should have 4 parts:**
  - **WELCOME**
    - This time opens the door for us to experience the ONE ANOTHERS of scripture. The Welcome time enhances the open SHARING of our PERSONAL lives.
  - **WORSHIP**
    - This time allows us to experience the PRESENCE and POWER of God. As we focus our attention on God, the Holy Spirit leads us to deeper FELLOWSHIP.
  - **WORD**
    - This time allows us to come face to face with the WORD of God. We help each other HEAR and OBEY what God is saying.
  - **WORKS**
    - This time helps us turn our attention to OTHERS. We grow together as we SERVE together.
- **What is our goal?**
  - **James 1:22-25; II Timothy 3:16**
    - One of the greatest threats to spiritual MATURITY is spiritual BULIMIA.
    - We have a tendency to hear the word of God LIGHTLY and GENERALLY instead of DEEPLY and PERSONALLY.
    - One of our tasks is to teach members to LISTEN and APPLY.
  - **Keep The Focus**
    - Leader's focus is on facilitating a time of SHARING together.
    - The TRUTH is from God's Word. The SERMON is the vehicle.
    - Critiquing the SPEAKER or the SERMON is not the goal
    - LIFE and VALUE transformation will follow the application of the Word
    - Good discussion springs from leading questions: Use the ABC's
  - **Ultimate Goal**
    - Our goal is to develop a listening HEART and a willingness to OBEY God's voice.
    - We want to consistently be "DOERS" of the Word, not "HEARERS" only.
    - Growth in LISTENING followed by application is a PROCESS.
    - It is the heart of following JESUS: Listening to and obeying His voice.
    - ABC's and the SPECK of Truth is a way to learn to hear the Lord
- **How to Process the Word**
  - **Start with the ABCs (in reverse order)**
    - CLARIFICATION – What about the message was unclear? Any questions?
    - BLESSING – What blessed you from the message?
    - APPLICATION – How can you apply what blessed you?
  - **Identifying the SPECK of Truth That Blessed You**
    - SIN to confess
    - PROMISE to claim
    - EXAMPLE to follow

- COMMAND to obey
- KNOWLEDGE to believe
- Missed the sermon? What SPECK did you glean from the previous week from your Bible reading, from listening to Christian radio/TV, from a book?
- **Leading the Word Portion of Cell**
  - **Leading Sharing**
    - Teach the SPECK to your group. Encourage everyone to share; ask question directly to a cell members. “Bob, what specifically blessed you from this week’s message?”
    - Use OPEN ENDED, follow-up question to guide toward application “Mary, how can you apply in your life what you learned this week?”
  - **Four Facilitator Actions**
    - ACKNOWLEDGE everyone who speaks during a discussion.
    - CLARIFY what is being said and felt. “Let me see if I understand what you are saying.”
    - TURN it back to the groups as a means of generation discussion. Don’t be the answer person. Ask, “What do the rest of you think about what was just said?”
    - SUMMARIZE what has been said. Offer Statements like, “So far it seems like we have been saying...” or “Nancy, could you try to summarize the key components of the discussion so far?”
  - **Killing Small Group Sharing**
    - SUPERFICIAL Sharing: Stay on a shallow, rather than matters of the heart.
    - OPINION Sharing: Critiquing the speaker and content of the message.
    - SECONDARY Sharing: Focus on things unrelated to a person’s life.
    - DOMINANT Sharing: Constant talk to control direction of conversation.
    - DIVISIVE Sharing: Focus on issue/attitude causing strife and division.
    - INADEQUATE Response: No feedback/response to issue that is shared.

## TIPS & TOOLS

- Understand that it will take time to train members to listen this way.
- Encourage your members to take notes of the sermon.
- Encourage everyone to share.
- State your expectations in the beginning.
- Share your blessing or application first to get the discussion going.
- Move deliberately from person to person asking leading questions.
- Encourage the “brief” sharing of insights.
- Use processing the Word to lead to a time of ministry.
- Do not be afraid of silent pauses, but don’t let them drag on and on.
- Keep focused on the topic of the sermon and avoid “chasing rabbits”.
- Keep the big picture in mind. The goal is application and life change.