

## L.O.V.E. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE IN A SMALL GROUP

Start your discussion by watching the Intro video. Then watch each video (*Listen, Observe, Validate*, and *Engage*) before discussing the relevant questions. You can find the videos at <https://ndi.nac-usa.org/en/resources/small-groups/participant-resources> or by visiting [ndi.nac-usa.org](https://ndi.nac-usa.org), clicking on RESOURCES, SMALL GROUPS, going to the Participant Resources page, and scrolling down.

## QUESTIONS

# LISTEN

1. What does it mean to truly listen to what someone is saying?
2. How can you teach yourself to listen to what someone is saying as opposed to listening only to respond to them?
3. How does listening to someone demonstrate generosity?
4. Loving God is best demonstrated by loving people – and many times those people are different from us. Read Philippians 2:3-4 together. How does this Bible verse provide context to what it means to really listen to each other?

## OBSERVE

1. How does the practice of observation help you to better understand others?
2. Why is it important to take time to observe your own reactions to what someone is saying?
3. Besides small group, what other settings would the practice of observation be useful?
4. Discuss the following quote and what it means to ***be real*** and ***be curious***. Discuss how these two characteristics effect how you observe.

*"There's a strong connection between being real and being curious. If we're curious about others, they're more likely to be real with us. That mutual openness and curiosity is part of community. And the church can't create that – only you can."*

# QUESTIONS CONTINUED

## VALIDATE

- 1. What is the first step of validating what someone has said? Why is this step so important?
- 2. How does validating a person’s contribution to small group help build them up?
- 3. What are ways we can validate what someone has said?
- 4. How could the following two questions help you in validating a member of your small group?

*What is God using to grow the faith of my group members?*

*What can I do to support them?*

## ENGAGE

- 1. Why might some people be afraid to engage in small group?
- 2. Think about your own small group. Are there aspects that might make people uncomfortable in engaging? What can be done to remove these barriers to engaging?
- 3. In what ways can you help build each other’s confidence so that everyone feels inspired to engage and share?
- 4. Why is it best to engage in the conversation by sharing from experience?
- 5. **Own your group experience. Own your spiritual growth.** How do these two phrases encourage you when it comes to engaging?

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

Consider how you can better *own your group experience* by practicing the following actions:

- Get to know everyone.*
- Be curious. Ask questions like, “What is going on with you this week?”*
- Offer encouragement and support in difficult times.*
- Come prepared and speak up during the discussion.*