



Leader's Guide – Open Topic Discussion

Proverbs 27:17 | Hebrews 10:24–25

Session Overview

This open-topic session addresses one of the defining elephants in the room of our cultural moment: how we handle disagreement. The world often teaches us that opposing views are threats, that disagreement is a personal attack, and that the safest response is cancellation, withdrawal, or outrage.

Scripture offers a radically different vision. God's Word calls us not to silence one another, but to sharpen one another; not to retreat from tension, but to engage it with love, humility, and grace. Grounded in Proverbs 27:17 and Hebrews 10:24–25, this discussion invites the group to see how faithful disagreement, handled well, becomes a tool God uses to grow wisdom, deepen love, and strengthen the body of Christ.

Session Flow (60–75 minutes)

1. Welcome and Icebreaker (10 min)

Example Question:

“When you hear two people strongly disagree today, what usually happens next—listening, withdrawal, or escalation?”

Purpose:

To help the group name cultural patterns around disagreement and prepare for a different, Scripture-shaped conversation.

2. Scripture Reading (5 min)

Read Proverbs 27:17 aloud.

Read Hebrews 10:24–25 aloud.

3. Discussion (40–50 min)

Use 6–8 of the following questions depending on time and group size.

Encourage curiosity, humility, and formation rather than persuasion or debate.

Discussion Questions

1. The world often tells us that disagreement is dangerous and opposing views should be canceled or avoided. Where have you seen that mindset show up most clearly?

Leader Note: Help the group name cultural patterns without attacking specific people or groups.

2. Why does disagreement so easily feel like a personal attack instead of a difference of perspective?

Leader Note: Explore fear, identity, and insecurity without assigning blame.

3. Proverbs 27:17 says we sharpen one another. What's the difference between sharpening and cutting someone down?

Leader Note: Emphasize posture, love, trust, and shared commitment to growth.

4. Hebrews 10:24 calls us to “consider how to spur one another on.” Why does that require intentional conversation instead of silence or avoidance?

Leader Note: Highlight that spiritual growth is relational and deliberate.

5. What happens to us spiritually when we only listen to voices that already agree with us?

Leader Note: Gently challenge echo chambers without shaming.

6. Can you recall a time when someone lovingly challenged you and it ultimately helped you grow?

Leader Note: Invite testimony, not counterarguments.

7. How can Christian community become a place where differences are confronted with grace instead of fear?

Leader Note: Reinforce safety, humility, and shared submission to Christ.

8. What would it look like for you to stay at the table with someone who thinks differently—without becoming defensive or dismissive?

Leader Note: Use this question to transition toward application and prayer.

Leader Coaching Sidebar: Keeping Disagreement from Becoming Debate

- Set the tone early: remind the group that the goal is formation, not persuasion.
- Slow the pace: when emotions rise, pause and invite silence or prayer.

- Reframe statements as questions to encourage curiosity instead of defensiveness.
- Watch body language and volume—these often escalate tension faster than words.
- Affirm courage when someone shares honestly, even if others disagree.
- Redirect debates by asking, “How is God forming us through this conversation?”
- Close tension-filled moments by re-centering on Christ, Scripture, and shared identity.

4. Application and Prayer (10–15 min)

Invite group members to reflect on how they respond to disagreement.

Ask: “Where might God be inviting you to listen more closely, respond more graciously, or stay at the table longer than feels comfortable?”

Allow a moment of silence before inviting anyone to pray aloud.

Closing Prayer Suggestion

Lord, thank You for forming us through community.

Give us humility when we disagree, courage to stay engaged, and grace to sharpen one another in love.

Teach us to resist fear and cancellation and to reflect Your Kingdom through truth and unity.

Amen.