

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(4Rs and 5Ms)

4 R

Effective Christian education and ministry is:

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1) **What is *relevance*?**

2) **Why is relevance important?**

3) **Isn't all Scripture relevant by itself?**

4) **What is the effect of relevance?**

5) What are barriers to relevant Christian education and ministry?

6) How can you make Christian education and ministry more relevant?

5 M

A Relevant Five-Movement Model of Christian Education

Movement 1: _____ Shines the light *on* personal experiences, actions

Movement 2: _____ Shines the light *into* a person for self-evaluation

Movement 3: _____ Shines the light on the text and its meaning

Movement 4: _____ Shines the light on both the text and the person

Movement 5: _____ Shines the light on personal action to be taken

FACILITATING 5M DISCUSSION

There are different ways to move through Groome’s five movements depending on your mode of communication. When *teaching* a class or *preaching*, questions, stories, activities, and silent reflection can be employed effectively. When *facilitating discussion* in a small group, questions are the key tool. We use different types of questions in each of the five phases to accomplish five different purposes.

PHASE	TYPE OF QUESTION	PURPOSE OF QUESTION	QUESTION BEHIND THE ?
<i>Remembering</i>	Opening	- Introduce the topic to members - Help them relate to the topic - Help them get to know others	What have you experienced?
<i>Reflecting</i>	Opening and follow-up	Encourage them to reflect on why they think, feel, and act the way they do	How has it affected you?
<i>Discovering</i>	Textual & interpretation	Present the content and guide the group into discovery and personal encounter with it	What does the text say? What does the text mean?
<i>Connecting</i>	Identification	- Reveal the relevance of the text - Connect God’s story to their story - Build a bridge: member to message	Can you relate?
<i>Responding</i>	Application	Help members choose a personal, meaningful, specific response to the lesson	How will you respond?

Below are tips for facilitating discussion. You should be able to use these helpful hints no matter which of the five phases you find yourselves in during the small group session.

1. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSES WITH PROBES (also called *follow-up questions!*)

- What do you mean?
- Can you explain that a bit more?
- Can you give us an example?
- Does anyone else have a different perspective?
- Does anyone else want to comment on this issue?
- Could there be another way of looking at this?
- How do you think _____ might look at this?

2. USE BODY LANGUAGE TO COMMUNICATE

- Lots of direct eye contact
- Lean forward
- Nod your head as members speak

3. ACKNOWLEDGE RESPONSES, BUT BE CAREFUL OF AFFIRMATION

You can acknowledge contributions with direct eye contact, a nod, or thanks. Be careful of being too affirming of contributions as it may prompt performing for your approval

4. STAY ON TRACK BY REMINDING MEMBERS OF THE PURPOSE OF THE SESSION