

Learning Styles

Visual Learners

These people respond well to charts, diagrams and other visual stimuli. They tend to like handouts and enjoy parables and stories. They are visual thinkers; that is, they respond well to word pictures and to stories that are vivid and descriptive and allow them to “picture” what is happening.

Tips for the leader:

Use handouts, newspaper articles, storyboards, paper and crayons, and objects to keep the attention of your visual learners and to allow them to connect in the best way possible.

Auditory Learners

Auditory learners enjoy learning by hearing. Rather than read a book about it, they would rather be in a discussion on an issue. Some of them may be avid readers, but in general, they would rather listen to a story than read one.

Tips for the leader:

Use subgroups to allow full participation by all members in discussions. Allow members of your group to respond verbally to questions and decisions. Use background music during prayer times or at the beginning of the meeting.

Kinesthetic Learners

These people like to touch and feel things. They like to participate in the action. They learn by doing. While a visual learner might be motivated to help the poor by seeing a picture of the poor in an issue of Newsweek, the kinesthetic learner would be motivated by a field trip or service project to the inner city.

Tips for the leader:

Utilize objects and experiences for your group. Plan outings and events that allow people to experience truth in action. Allow kinesthetic learners to learn by trial and error, rather than by simply telling them the answer to something.

* Source: leading Life-Changing Small Groups, by Donahue