

DISCUSSION LEADER

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# TRAINING RESOURCES

LEADING THROUGH  
CHALLENGES

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PART 1

# Discussion Leader Training Resources: Leading Through Challenges 1

## PRE-ASSIGNMENT:

Provide the video link to DLs to watch before leaders' meeting or view together at the start of training.

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/ffots3lZ7IM>

## 1. DECLARE *(the talking points)*

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(Time: 3-5 minutes)

- We desire for our members to draw nearer to God as they learn, love and live out the truth.
- Participation in a safe, healthy discussion group is an important part of achieving that goal.
- We know that challenging situations can arise with the potential to destroy safety and diminish individuals.
- A discussion leader's response to those challenging situations can preserve group unity and protect individuals.
- While we may prefer to have a right response to every situation, we actually need a wise response that fits the context.
- The 3S framework can help us shape wise responses to challenging situations.

## 2. DELIVER/DISPLAY *(the tool)*

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(Time: 2 minutes)

- The 3S Framework
  - Safe members
  - Strong group
  - Spirit-led leader
- The 3S framework helps form and evaluate our responses to challenging situations.

## 3. DEMONSTRATE *(the tool)*

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(Time: 5 minutes)

**Challenging Situation:** a member criticizes the local pastor of a church they formerly attended.

- **Scenario 1** – the group includes current members of the pastor's church.

Possible immediate response –  
“Pam I know you've experienced some hard things and I don't want to minimize that. At the same time, I'm going to ask all of us to avoid criticizing others during group because we are responsible for our own spiritual growth and choices but not those of others.”

- **Scenario 2** – the group does not include any members of the pastor’s church and the member has never criticized someone during group before.

Possible immediate response –  
“Pam the comment you made about Pastor Bill is so out of character for you. Are you ok?” (*Conversation continues with gentle reminder to avoid criticism during group if no remorse.*)

#### **4. DO** (*leaders practice the tool*)

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(Time: 10 minutes)

- *Choose option of large group discussion, partners or small groups.*
- *Instruct leaders to form responses shaped by the 3S framework for the following scenarios.*
- *Leaders determine if response given immediately or privately.*
- *When leaders report their responses, ask them to evaluate how well they upheld the 3S framework.*

**Challenging Situation 1:** member says “I used to be Catholic until I started studying the Bible”

- **Scenario 1** – long-time member repeats this comment at least a few times each year
- **Scenario 2** – group includes multiple current Catholics

**Challenging Situation 2:** member expresses the opinion that good Christian parents should always homeschool

- **Scenario 1** – the member is new to EBS and attending for the second time
- **Scenario 2** – several public school teachers are members of the class but not in this discussion group

#### **5. DEVELOP** (*leaders and conclude*)

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Affirm their efforts to practice the 3S framework.

- We can expect challenging situations and the Spirit’s help when they occur.
- Keeping the 3S framework in mind equips us to respond wisely.
- Ask the Spirit to lead you each week as you facilitate the discussion group.