

# HOW TO LEAD:

# Off-roader

WHO LOVES TO VEER OFF-TOPIC—TAKING YOUR GROUP WITH HIM.

## DO'S & DON'TS

DO *this*

... *Not* THIS



Politely interrupt. "Let's stop for a minute. I want to respect everyone's time and let anyone else chime in."



Host a group with no time for connection before and after or for full, easy discussion of the topic.



Pull aside the off-roader beforehand. "I noticed a few people aren't joining in the discussion as much. Would you be willing to hold back a bit so I can give space for that?"



Forget to prioritize the fellowship and relationship-building that form an interesting, supportive, well-connected group—not just a social Bible study.



Close off a topic clearly by asking, "Is there anything someone wants to add before we move on?"



Fail to be an assertive facilitator. Sometimes your group may be hoping you'll step in with the long-winded.



Tactfully ask, "I may be missing something. Can you help me connect what you're saying to the topic of \_\_\_?"



Lose sight of compassion. Instead, create a culture where people can be themselves and enjoy humor and humanity.



Present a key question to pull people back on topic.



Lack the confidence to ask, "May I interrupt you here?"



Ask a question to restore an interrupted speaker's dignity. "You were communicating something important. Can I ask you to continue what you were saying?"



Be so goal-focused you miss opportunities to set aside the topic and care for a member's acute need.