

HOW TO LEAD:

The Oversharer

WHO MAY NOT KNOW WHAT QUALIFIES AS "MORE THAN YOU NEED TO KNOW"

DO'S & DON'TS

DO *this*

... *Not* THIS



Help them cut to the chase: "I want to make sure I'm following you. What happened regarding [topic at hand]?"



Discern: Is this vulnerable? (connecting; challenging to greater intimacy, even if controversial)

Or is it inappropriate? (alienating; dominating with too much story; indiscreet)



Say, "Thanks for sharing. I appreciate you setting a tone of vulnerability for the rest of us. I want to make sure everyone gets a chance to chime in, so let me present the question again..."



"Let me pause you briefly. I do want to hear your story. But I also want to respect how this may affect people who (have a different life experience/may have strong feelings with this topic/don't feel comfortable with the play-by-play of your 43-hour labor).

"Would you mind fast-forwarding so we can still hear the heart of what matters to you? Your story's important here.



Welcome each member's humanity—while keeping one from dominating the spotlight. We want community that's a (less intimate) version of "naked and unashamed" (Genesis 2:25).



Forego consideration for group members by relinquishing your role as leader—and fail to assertively step in with the long-winded.



Passively forget to shepherd the individual (outside of the group) toward self- and others-awareness. Rather, gently seek to understand why they overshare—Do they lack a friend or someone to listen? Do they know what to reveal when?



Create an atmosphere lacking grace. Awkwardness, neediness, or even instability are chances to show how Jesus responds to our weakness.



Fail to pray about why the oversharer grates on you personally. Do you

- Tend to be task-oriented?
- Shy away from intimate conversation?
- Struggle with impatience?
- Grow irritated with poor social skills?
- Have a strong idea of the perfect group?



Keep the oversharer from perceiving your group as a safe place. Communicate freedom from shame, even when members are less than socially desirable or self-aware (see 1 Corinthians 12:23).