

## Discussion Guidelines to Negotiate

Amos 3:3

1. May I be the leader of this group?
2. Will we start on time (WWVB; www.time.gov, +, - 15 seconds)?
3. Will we quit on time?
4. Will we speak one at a time? 1 Corinthians 14:27-33
5. Will we talk where others can hear or will we speak softly and in small groups where others will not know what is being said?
6. Will each person speak for himself or herself or will we speak for others such as “they,” “them,” “everybody,” and for God as well?
7. Will we have a right to all our feelings: the painful as well as the pleasant?
8. Do you want to have a rule that we will not make fun of what people say in this group?
9. May I, as a leader, have a right to interrupt?
10. Will we have a right to disagree with each other?
11. Will we settle group business in the group or will we get in small groups afterwards and talk about each other?
12. Do we want to have a rule of confidentiality:
  - a. What we say here stays here?
  - b. Will I take care of myself, telling the group only what I trust them to keep?
13. If what I say offends or hurts you, will you tell me or will you talk about me to others?
14. If, after a group session is over, you realize that you didn't get finished, will you bring the matter back to the group and work it out?
15. May we be humble instead of arrogant? That is, if we don't know what someone is thinking or feeling, will we ask or will we assume that we know what they are thinking or feeling? Matthew 5:3; 1 Corinthians 2:11
16. May others respond to what we say?
17. When we ask a question, will we be willing to tell why we want to know the answer?
18. May a person decide to quit talking when they choose?
19. Will we attend all sessions? If we must be absent, will we tell the group why?
20. Will we agree to not talk about group business during breaks?
21. Are we aware that some of these rules will probably be broken? What will we learn about ourselves and leadership when they are broken?
  - a. By us?
  - b. By others?
22. Will we agree to try to apply these Biblical principles to ourselves before we try to “fix” other people who are in this group or people who are not here? Psalm 139:23,24; 1 Corinthians 9:27; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Corinthians 10:12
23. May we bring up “old business” if we need to clarify or discuss something further?
24. May we have permission to make additional rules, if needed, to help this group be more effective?
25. Would you be willing to tell what you like about this group process, what is helpful and what is not helpful, and in this way give suggestions for improving future discussions?

For an explanation of the rules, go to: [Discussion Guidelines with Commentary](#) .