

# THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF FACILITATING SMALL GROUPS

## THE DO'S

- Start small group time in prayer.
- Remind everyone that what is said is not to be repeated outside of the small group.
- Use fun opening questions to help the youth get to know each other more.
- Use small group questions to help facilitate discussion and conversation.
- Include everyone in the conversation.
- Hold back some of the stronger personalities through positive acknowledgement, and stating a desire to hear what others have to share.
- Try different strategies to help shier youth participate such as going around in the circle to let everyone share an answer.
- Always be attentive and listen to what the youth have to say.
- Affirm and thank the youth for sharing.
- Do not be afraid to allow times of silence.
- Read through the small group discussion and activity plans before the Edge Night.
- Have all the necessary materials for small group activities before small groups start.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to lead the discussion, and if you get off topic gently guide the youth back to some of the small group questions.

## THE DON'TS

- Do not give another teaching or finish the teaching with what you think should have been said.
- Do not dominate the conversation; this is not a time to share all your opinions and advice but to let the youth respond.
- Do not just power through the small group questions, or feel pressured to make it through the whole list.
- Do not just let one youth respond or a few dominate the whole small group time, be sure to hear at least once from every youth.
- Do not allow or permit taunting or bullying of any kind.
- Do not be unprepared, the youth will know.