

countering pharaoh



role of the facilitator

The facilitator coordinates the flow of each session's conversation with questions and discussion (see Session Outline). The facilitator is not expected (and should resist the temptation) to try to provide answers for the class. Asking open-ended questions tends to promote the best group conversation. The facilitator can be the same person each session or can be rotated among group members.

The facilitator can also help or be responsible for organizing the location of the gatherings, publicity, collecting supplies and materials, arranging for refreshments (if any), and recruiting participants.

before the first session

Printed Material:

The *Countering Pharaoh* DVD is accompanied by a materials CD with pdf files of the facilitator and participant materials for the entire program. Although the participants' guides have a color illustration as part of the layout, it is not necessary to print out the guides in color.

Choose the method of distribution that works best for you:

Option 1: email material to all participants for them to download/print out in a form suitable to their individual preferences/needs.

Option 2: facilitator prints out all material and provides each participant with the material at the first.

Option 3: facilitator distributes material on a weekly basis prior to the next meeting (by email, post, or in person at the close of the previous session).

for each session

Preparation:

- 1) View the DVD segment ahead of time and make your own notes and observations regarding its contents (paying close attention for the active listening definitions, etc.).
- 2) Have extra copies of everything (participants' handouts, pens/pencils, etc.) for visitors or in case anyone forgets something.

- 3) If necessary, have the next week's session material available to distribute.

Setting:

The most important thing in preparing the meeting place is for people to be comfortable. Arrive early, help organize refreshments (if any), AND MAKE SURE TO TEST THE DVD TO BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE CORRECT DISC AND THAT EVERYTHING WORKS!

Controversy:

Please be aware that some of the issues and concepts presented in the DVD and written material will challenge some people's worldview. For some it will be radically new information. For others, it will be an affirmation of what they've known deep down for a long time. Facilitators will want to be prepared for anxiety, conflict, and the need to be sensitive to those who are struggling.

Closing:

Depending on the tradition and comfort level of your group, it is often helpful to bring closure to each session with a ritual act of some kind. Choose one of the following, alternate something different each session, or create something new inspired by the curriculum:

- 1) quiet time / meditation
- 2) contemplative prayer
- 3) intercessory prayer, etc.

The facilitator may want to have someone identified through a sign-up sheet as to who will take responsibility for the close of each session.