

Getting The Spoon to Talk to The Fork

For leaders to lead effectively on a table, they need to take individual participants and small group dynamics into account. Why not test how much you know with our quick quiz?

All kinds of people attend Christianity Explored courses, from convinced atheists to regular church attendees. Some tend to stray 'off-topic' while others rarely contribute to discussion. How can table leaders graciously resolve the situations that arise? Test your group dynamic skills with these questions:

Q1. What's the best way to share together during the meal?

- A Chat about last session's home study
- B Talk about interests, work and family
- C Theological debate

Q2. How many 'personality types' feature in the CE Leader's Guide?

- A Four
- B Five
- C Seven

Q3. Which 'personality types' are best helped by splitting up the group at times?

- A 'Off-On-A-Tangent Ollie' and 'Angry Andy'
- B 'Talkative Tim' and 'Off-On-A-Tangent Ollie'
- C 'Silent Sue' and 'Talkative Tim'

Q4. What should you avoid doing when a participant gives a wrong answer?

- A Opening up the discussion to others
- B Correcting them right away so others are not confused
- C Correcting the wrong answer graciously

Q5. For tricky questions, what is least helpful for constructive discussion?

- A A period of silence to allow participants to think
- B Leaders talking immediately after each other
- C If nobody answers, addressing a participant directly

Q6. What is not required of group leaders?

- A 'Carrying over' issues discussed earlier if appropriate
- B Ensuring that everyone in the group is heard
- C Having all the answers to every question

Q7. At which point do the most effective conversations with guests take place?

- A During the meal
- B After viewing the DVD
- C One-to-one at the end of the evening

How did you score? For more help with table leading, see Session 5 of the Leader's Edition Study Guide. Finally, two top tips for table leaders: remember to be gentle in your tone of voice and body language (1 Thess 2:7), and watch each participant for reactions, both spoken and unspoken. **Answers:** 1-B, 2-B, 3-C, 4-B, 5-B, 6-C, 7-C