



## **FACILITATOR GUIDE**

# **Welcome to The After Party!**

We're so glad you're here. This course is designed to be user-friendly, and this guide will help you confidently lead your group through the material.

Have questions? Reach out to us at [info@redeemingbabel.org](mailto:info@redeemingbabel.org)—we'll do our best to respond within 24 hours.

# Best Practices for Facilitators

## STEP 1 Prepare Before Each Session

- Spend 5-10 minutes reviewing the session content, including exercises and discussion prompts.
  - Check the suggested time for each section to ensure a smooth flow.
  - Adapt the material to fit your group—skip or modify exercises if needed.
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## STEP 2 Create a Comfortable & Engaging Environment

- Establish ground rules in the first session and remind the group each time you meet.
  - Keep groups small (6-10 people) for more effective discussions. If the group is larger, break into smaller groups for exercises.
  - Icebreakers help people feel at ease. Try one of these:
  - Fun questions: If you were a superhero, what would your power be?
  - Deeper questions: What motivated you to sign up for this course?
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## STEP 3 Facilitate, Don't Lecture

- You don't need to be a political expert—your role is to guide discussions, not to teach or have all the answers.
- Participate alongside the group. If a tough question arises, try saying: "That's a great question! What do others think?"
- Keep conversations moving with timers:
- 15 minutes, 10 minutes, 5 minutes



# Leading 101: Core Principles

As a facilitator, your goal is to foster respectful, curious, and open conversations. Here's how!

**Encourage discussion, not debate.** The goal is understanding, not winning arguments.

**Model active listening.** Be quick to listen and slow to speak.

**Balance hospitality with authenticity.** Create a space for honesty while keeping conversations gracious.

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## Group Discussion Ground Rules

As a group, we commit to:

- **Listening Deeply.** Make space for all voices, and embrace silence when needed.
- **Showing Curiosity.** The goal isn't to "win" but to understand.
- **Learning Together.** Ask open-ended questions rather than offering quick opinions.
  - *Try: "Tell me the story of how you came to that perspective."*
- **Encouraging Each Other.** Assume best intentions and lead with patience and humility.



**"Watching people move from fear to hope, from division to understanding, was one of the most rewarding things I've witnessed."**

**– TAP FACILITATOR**

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# Encouraging Participation & Handling Challenges

## Let's Get Started!

Depending on your group size, you might break into smaller groups for discussion and then reconvene to share key insights as time allows!

**Pro Tip:** Some participants, especially internal processors, engage more in small-group settings than in full-group discussions.



## Guiding Discussions Through Challenging Moments

- **Handling Difficult Questions:** Redirect rather than react. Try: *"That's an interesting perspective—what do others think?"*
- **Addressing Dominant Voices:** Gently validate their input, then invite others in. Try: *"That's a great point—let's hear from someone who hasn't spoken yet."*
- **Dealing with Persistent Disruptions:** Consider inviting a dominant participant into a leadership role—perhaps by reviewing materials in advance and helping guide discussion.

# 89%

of group participants said that participating in this program deepened their relationships with others in their group.



# Facilitating Conversations on Sensitive Topics

PRIME FOCUS



Here are a few potential tension points you may encounter in The After Party—and a bit of guidance on how to engage with them thoughtfully and with care.

## SESSION 1-2

### “The Disappeared Loved Ones”

- This exercise addresses fractured relationships due to politics, which may bring up painful emotions.
  - Be prepared with resources (from your church or local organizations) to support those experiencing grief or relational struggles.
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## SESSION 4-3

### “An Unlikely Friendship”

- A story in this session highlights two people with differing views on abortion who become friends.
  - If discussion shifts to personal views on abortion, gently bring it back to the broader theme: *How do we build relationships despite political differences?*
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## SESSION 5

### “The Cynic”

- This session discusses Christian engagement in politics through the lens of the American Civil Rights movement.
  - If differing opinions arise, acknowledge them while keeping the focus on the course’s core message: *Following Jesus in our political engagement.*
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# You're Ready to Lead!

A movement is growing—one where Christians commit to centering their political engagement on the teachings of Jesus. And now, you're part of it! We're so grateful for your leadership in The After Party and can't wait to see the impact in your community.

May these words guide you as you lead:

*"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

— MICAH 6:8

