

GROUP MEMBERS

COPING WITH THE GROUP MEMBER WHO TALKS TOO LITTLE

If you lead a group for any length of time, you will probably have that group member who simply does not talk enough. To make matters worse, the group member probably has constructive things to offer to the discussion.

The tips below come from the experience of our group leaders and other resources

- **DON'T JUMP THE GUN.** If your group is relatively new, or this group member is relatively new, be patient. It takes some people more time to get comfortable in a group setting.
- **MAKE EYE CONTACT.** Eye contact can influence someone's participation. If you want to draw conversation out of someone, sometimes it is as easy as making eye contact.
- **SIT ACROSS FROM THE QUIET PERSON.** When you sit right across from someone, you are most likely going to be looking at this person often during the group.
- **USE SUBGROUPS.** If you are leading a Couple's group, divide the husbands and wives. If you are leading a Men's or Women's group, divide the group in half. When the group gets smaller and smaller, it seems to make some people more prone to participating in the discussion.
- **SET THE GROUP MEMBER UP FOR SUCCESS.** Give the quiet group member a preview to the topic and questions.
- **PRAISE, PRAISE, PRAISE.** When the group member does finally participate in the discussion, praise them for sharing with the group.