



DISCUSSION MEETING TOOLBOX

HOW TO SHARE A GREAT FAITH EXPERIENCE

Someone once asked SGI President Ikeda if there was a special secret to holding lively, hope-filled discussion meetings. He answered that while there was no special secret, a meeting's success lies in sharing experiences in faith: "People who share their experiences brim with joy and energy. That feeling communicates to everyone else, and the joy spreads until the entire meeting becomes positive and vibrant" (*The New Human Revolution*, vol. 18, p. 256).



1. *Before a meeting, an experience should be warmly but thoroughly reviewed for both timing (5-7 minutes) and content (encouraging and to the point) by one of the leaders responsible for the meeting.*

2. *The key to an effective experience is sharing the human revolution that you underwent that led to the benefit being received, as much as the benefit itself.*

Conclude with a personal determination toward the future.

5.

3. *As much as possible, avoid referring to specific lengths of time chanted (so as not to give the impression to guests and new members that physical austerities such as many-hour chanting sessions are a requirement of the practice).*

Also, refrain from stating specific dollar amounts in an experience to avoid misunderstandings (e.g., "I chanted for this amount of money") or sharing the names of specific companies, organizations or products. The focus should be on the faith breakthrough itself.

4.

6. *It's a great idea to practice reading it beforehand with a senior in faith. Pace yourself; don't talk too fast or too slowly! Please stick to your script, since ad-libbing may cause you to skip crucial points or go overtime.*

7. *Chant Nam-myoho-renge-kyo with the determination that your experience will instill hope in others and inspire them to persevere in faith.*