



## DISCUSSION MEETING TOOLBOX

# GIVING A POWERFUL STUDY PRESENTATION

In volume 26 of *The New Human Revolution*, second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda calls on the young Shin'ichi Yamamoto to support Kawagoe District in Saitama, Japan, and help the members there deepen their faith and grow as individuals through studying Nichiren Daishonin's writings. Mr. Toda said at the time:

"Each lecture is decisive. Thinking to yourself that you may not have another chance to go to Kawagoe again, treasure each opportunity as a unique encounter.

"Lectures should be serious, full of conviction, and clear and logical. Your challenge is whether you can awaken in your listeners the joy of having encountered Nichiren

Buddhism and of being able to dedicate their lives to kosen-rufu.

"Lectures should be profound. By 'profound' I don't mean using difficult terms and complex reasoning. Rather, your lectures need to be easy to understand, giving your listeners a fresh eye-opening perspective, helping them grasp the significance of the writing as well as deepening their conviction in faith.

"In other words, a truly profound lecture is one that deepens the listeners' understanding and awakens them to their mission for kosen-rufu." (NHR, vol. 26, p. 354)

The following are practical steps you can take to prepare for a study lecture.

### STEP 1:

#### Read the material

- Read the lecture several times to become familiar with its content and overall intent.
- Read the featured letter in *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, including the background.
- Study for your own education and encouragement; note what you learned and found inspiring.

### STEP 2:

#### Prepare the background and context

- Prepare a brief explanation of the letter's background to convey the context in which Nichiren wrote it.
- Review the lecture's opening section, where President Ikeda often connects the content of the letter to the present.

### STEP 3:

#### Decide on your conclusion

- Determine your presentation's end point—knowing where you're going helps plan the route you'll take.

### STEP 4:

#### Work on your main points

- Confirm the main points you intend to make in your presentation. We suggest highlighting two to three key points.
- Include memorable passages that participants can engrave in their hearts.
- Speak about content that excites or encourages you. This will convey your enthusiasm for study.
- Share an experience that illustrates how the material applies to daily life.
- Keep the cited passages brief.

### STEP 5:

#### Practice your presentation

- Practice your presentation several times. Read slowly while tracking the time.
- Does the presentation make sense to you? If not, more work is needed.

### STEP 6:

#### Chant abundantly

- Chant Nam-myoho-renge-kyo abundantly to be able to convey the spirit of Nichiren Daishonin and of President Ikeda through your presentation.

