



## 3 WAYS TO OPEN UP A SWITCH GROUP

Whether you've just stepped up to serve in Switch or have been serving for a while now, it's normal to wonder how to begin your small group time. But what if there were a simple formula to minimize your awkwardness and maximize your time together? There is, and it's easier than you might think.

**Here's three things to do on your first night with your students.**

1. **Introduce yourself.** As a Switch leader, it's our job to create a comfortable group environment where your students feel needed and known. *And making a student feel needed and known starts with letting them get to know you.* Try doing a Leader Hot Seat—give your students three minutes to ask you anything they want. Share about yourself, your family, your interests or hobbies. This establishes common ground and a foundation of trust because they know who you are.
2. **Get to know them.** Your next step is to take an interest in them. Students won't care how much you know until they know how much you care. As their leader, they need to know you value who they are, so remember their name, learn what they like, and start building your relationship by listening more than you talk.
3. **Give them one takeaway.** Students spend a lot of time processing information, but they need help discerning what wisdom to listen to. In your conversation, make it meaningful by diving into one thing your students can apply to their lives. You can provide value and establish influence by connecting what they learned through the message with what's actually going on in their lives.

Keep these tips in mind as you begin the year, and then expand on them as your group grows and develops. You've got everything you need to lead these students well, so embrace these tips and lead on, leader!

**Talk through these discussion questions with your fellow leaders and Switch team.**

1. What are some other questions you have about getting students to open up to you?
2. What are some tips you've found helpful as you've started building relationships with students in your Switch groups?
3. What are some ways you can get to know your students in ways that will help them feel needed and known?
4. How do you choose which takeaway to focus your conversations around?
5. What are some tactics you've tried to help your Switch students feel more comfortable during group time?