

# What should I do when a group member repeatedly doesn't practice between meetings?

Below is a script that you can use with a practice partner (choose your spouse, friend, or someone else) to learn how to handle the problem of a group member repeatedly not practicing between meetings.

Keep page 2 for yourself and give page 3 to your practice partner. Your practice partner will play the role of John.

If possible, rehearse 4-5 times (until you can do it without the tips).

## **Practice Scenario**

In the first sharing meeting, John didn't practice the discipline because there was "too much going on." You understood because life does get busy at times. This week is the second sharing meeting. You start the meeting by sharing about your week and then turn to your left, where John is seated.

YOU

How did your week go?

JOHN

Well, I was swamped again this week. I looked through the story, but I didn't get a chance to practice the steps.

YOU

Let's stop here for a moment.

Why: Stopping allows you to address the problem before it becomes something that affects what the group is trying to do.

YOU

John, to make this work, we all have to practice between meetings. I know it can be hard when things come up, but let's agree to make it a top priority.

Why: Naming the problem lets everyone know that you won't allow this problem to derail the group's focus.

YOU

(Pause to allow the person to respond.)

Why: By pausing, you give this person the opportunity to respond, and it preserves his or her dignity within the group.

JOHN

I'm just so busy. I can try to work on it.

YOU

OK, let's move on so we stay on track.

Why: Refocusing helps the group move on and not dwell on this moment.

YOU

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JOHN

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