



SOME CHARACTERISTICS of SHARING vs DISCUSSION

Sharing groups differ from discussion groups in the fundamental ways that group members interact with one another. Here is a comparison of the two types.

SHARING

Participants share their **lived experience, their story.**

Tell about God in their life.

Subjective Process

Speaks in first person -

“I think, I feel, I believe....”

Focus is on **People**

“listening, trust, openness”

Statements are accepted as is.

Input is **accepted**

Listeners accept, do not disagree.

Participants **learn much about** themselves.

Group is **People Oriented**

Seek relationships.

People **sit close together** and lean toward each other when talking.

Members **build community.**

DISCUSSION

Participants **talk about ideas, concepts and programs.** They offer opinions.

Objective Process

Speaks in third person

“they think, he feels, she believes.....”

Focus is on **Dogmas**

“right and wrong” Statements

need to make sense.

Input is **judged**

Listeners analyze what is said.

Members **try to persuade** others to their point of view

Group is **Task Oriented**

Seek solutions/answers.

People tend to **sit further apart** and lean back or sit straight when speaking.

Members **draw conclusions.**