



## Pitfalls of Leading A Girls Group

*After leading a few groups of girls, I have learned more from my mistakes than my successes. I hope these 5 Common Pitfalls will help you as you get started in your girls groups. Enjoy! Courtney DeFeo*

### Pitfall #1. Teaching Before Caring

Theodore Roosevelt said it, so it must be true. "No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care." Spend way more time showing up in these girls' lives, than trying to teach them things. They will be way more open to what you know after that trust begins.

### Pitfall #2. Failure To Include Fun

Girls just wanna have fun. They just want to play and enjoy each other. They want ice cream. They want to jump on a trampoline. They want to braid hair and do slime. Make SURE you put enough time in every meeting for way more fun - because they will keep coming back if they have space for that. The more I try to teach them something, the more I lose them. You can see it on their faces. Find the things that will keep 'em coming back.

### Pitfall #3. Forgetting To Ask Questions

You want the girls to *discover* core truths - not shove the Truth down their throats. When you ask interesting questions and then listen, this sets the stage for them to share. They discover great things from each other. It makes them think. Let them discover the answers to life and faith and hard struggles themselves - empower them through great questions.

### Pitfall #4. Running It Alone

Just because you are the go-getter and not afraid to stand up and lead, doesn't mean there aren't a host of other moms ready to help in their own ways. Find ways to raise up other leaders in the group of moms but making unique roles that feel fun for them. Leave pressure and guilt at the door. Make these relationships a real priority. Tough moments between the girls are handled so much better with moms that are real friends.

### Pitfall #5. Trying To Include All

I had one group with 24 girls and it was super hard to get them to open up. The smaller you keep it the more you can get the girls to be themselves. You want to create a safe environment where they can be real and share real stuff. That's the goal. If it gets too big - make two groups. Don't leave anyone out, but don't make so big that it's not a natural place for growth.