Counseling Together
Make it Safe, Validate, Elaborate

> When we counsel together guided by the Holy Ghost, we can see where we are and where we need to be. The Holy Ghost gives us a vision that our natural eyes cannot see, because **"revelation is scattered among us"**, and when we put that revelation together, we can see more.
>
> Reyna I. Aburto, March 2018 General Conference

To be effective, councils have to be a safe place for everyone to share and contribute. Here are some common safety killers:

Holding too tightly

Your ideas are vital, but they are a piece of the puzzle, not the whole thing. Share what you have, but don't hold too tightly to it.

Interrupting

Cutting someone off with a "yabut" or a "well actually" is rude, and makes people feel unsafe to share their ideas. Wait and listen.

Going on Mute

Everyone's thoughts and ideas are needed. Don't hold back. Silencing yourself makes it harder to receive revelation, not easier.

Dismissing Ideas

Every piece of the puzzle is vital, even those that you disagree with. Many puzzles are never completed because pieces are missing.

As we counsel together, how we share is as vital as what we share. Validating others' ideas and elaborating on them will create an environment where the Spirit can guide us and help us see where we need to be.

Validate

To validate is to offer support or encouragement. When we validate each other, we make it safe to share and create an environment for the Holy Ghost to guide our discussion.

- **Thank you for sharing that**
- **That's really important**
- **I like that you are focused on…**
- **That's a valid point**
- **I agree**
- **Yeah**
- **Hmmm**

Elaborate

Whether we agree them or not, elaborating on others' comments instead of correcting or dismissing them makes it safe to share and sheds more light on the subject.

- **I also think that…**
- **To add on that…**
- **I have a different perspective on this**
- **In my experience…**
- **I'd like to piggy back off that**
- **Can I come at this from a different angle?**

Looking for more resources?