

VALUES RESET

A Life Group Exercise to Lead the Group Towards Ownership of Purpose, Direction and Culture

Instructions: this exercise is intended to be a group discussion with the Life Group Leader facilitating arriving at consensus by asking a series of questions.

Note: using a whiteboard, poster-board or some large notepad will prove helpful in this exercise

Q: What's the purpose statement of GP?

A: leading towards full devotion...

Q: How does GP measure "full devotion"?

A: G5...walk through each G

* possibly share most recent G5 Assessment Survey Results of the group – mainly drawing out the 4-5 lowest areas that represent the greatest opportunity for overall group growth

* really, the purpose of our group and Biblical community is to see this realized – to see us growing in full devotion to Jesus, and the outflow of that changing the world around us. At the end of the day – that's what we need to periodically assess on whether or not our group is worthwhile, whether our time is effectively stewarded, whether we're focusing on the right things...

Q: anybody remember what the CORE values of Grace Point are?

A: Commitment, Ownership, Relationship, Encouragement

(see <http://www.gracepoint.org/Home/AboutUs/tabid/62/Default.aspx>)

* ask folks to unpack what they think each of the CORE values means

* Grace Point highlights these as being the characteristics necessary within the GP community to pursue a G5 type of full devotion.

Q: what are other values you'd say our life group has?

A: (list them out)

* try to help them unpack what is valued and why – what it leads to. For instance, one group valued punctuality because they have a babysitter for a limited amount of time, they want our time to be productive and when they lost 25-40% of our time waiting for folks the whole group suffers. They valued fun/laughter – making sure it wasn't just about information, but the entire journey of life. They valued working together – projects, helping folks move, getting active together. They valued Intimacy – really sharing, having confidentiality, being known in deep ways. They valued growing, moving towards goals.

* Shared that you don't grow in G5 full devotion necessarily by talking about them. The Inputs of Biblical Community are important. Walk through that, drawing from the Great Commandment and Great Commission, the 5 elements of Discipleship/Study, Worship/Adoration, Fellowship/Relationships, Serving/Ministry, Missions/Outreach/Evangelism. Explain that the mix, ratio and focus of each of these elements within a group needs to be geared towards intentional growth in full devotion. Sometimes we get anemic in one or more areas...we each need to own keeping the group on track to living out the fullness of Christ among us.

Q: imagine it's 12 months from now. You're looking back over the past year of our life group and it's been an amazingly successful, productive year. What would you see in the rearview mirror that makes it such a remarkable year?

A: (list them, wrestle with them)

* possible answers might include things ranging from— going local quarterly, getting on a global trip, having 1 night a month outside of group night that is just a social hang time, expanding accountability relationships, being so devoted to full devotion that people hold each other accountable on finances, marriages, relationships; everyone in the group knowing their spiritual gifts and using them within GP; everyone have a chance to study/lead 1 night; launch another group...

Q: what do we need to do differently to realize this? What are the changes and what are the hindrances we need to tackle?

A: this is a general time to really talk about next steps

Close with agreeing to share the list with each other via email and wrestle through what this would mean. Set some short-term plans in place to begin acting. Gather in a circle and pray for God to stir in the group a relentless passion for Him that drives a challenge, love and encouragement for one another to live out a community that really reflects His nature...Pray God would break hearts for what breaks His, pray that He would convict each person in areas that hinder the group, that God would make the group discontent with casual Christian living that doesn't change lives....that He would make everyone each aware of how they can contribute to His work in this group and beyond.

The key is to keep the focus on Christ and the purpose/goal. You may need to call out some examples of values not being lived out in grace – “we value intimacy, which is why showing up is so important. Bob – you've had a lot of times you're gone for various stuff. I get that, and yet we groan because we know we're missing out on you and you're missing out on us, so when you come back it's strained.” Couch everything in the context of we value these things because they help us reach the goal...how can we get there better?