

## CG LEADERS TRAINING (Oct 28, 2017)

### I. What is a CG for?

- Not merely social; not just for care and support; not just for the sake of building deeper relationships
- To help one another grow in Christ (Col. 1:24-2:7)
  - Christ-centred, not group-centred
  - What this maturity looks like (1:9-14)
  - Every member is involved (Heb. 10:24-25)
- For the good of the church
  - Strengthening the church's unity and love (Eph. 4:15-16)
    - Being welcoming to visitors and newcomers
    - Helping CG participants to get connected to the church as committed members
    - Serving the church practically
    - Working with the elders and deacons to provide pastoral care
    - Multiplying CGs
  - Beware the "anti's" of CGs
    - Anti-preaching
    - Anti-the leaders
    - Anti-the church

### II. Our focus: *Transformational* Learning of God's word

- 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5; James 1:22-27
1. Learning the Bible
    - Small groups can cultivate a deeper desire and hunger for God's word
  2. Applying the Bible
    - Small groups can make applications more pointed and specific. They can also offer accountability to help encourage perseverance and obedience.
  3. Praying the Bible
  4. Learning how to read the Bible
    - In a small group study, time can be devoted to establishing good methods of Bible interpretation. Inductive Bible studies help to make explicit the "working" involved in Bible interpretation.
    - Members can be given opportunities to prepare and lead Bible studies

5. Training with the Bible
6. Shepherding with the Bible

### III. Preparing a Bible study for CG

#### 1) *Keep the Hero of the big story in view: context is the King*

- Who is the Bible about? What is the Bible for?
  - Isaiah 40:1-11; 55:6-11
  - Luke 24:44-49
  - 2 Timothy 3:14-17
  - John 17:17
- What has Jesus done? (Matt. 16:21) What did Jesus say? (v. 24)

#### 2) *Understand the passage of Scripture*

- Using the **C.O.M.A.** framework
- **CONTEXT**
  - The big story of the Bible
  - What kind of writing is this?
  - Overview of this particular book of the Bible
    - What are the main themes/ideas?
    - What is the author's purpose in writing?
    - Who is the book intended for?
    - What situation is the author addressing?
  - How does this passage fit within the flow of the book?
    - What has happened so far? What will happen next?
    - How has the author's line of reasoning developed so far? How will it develop after this?
- **OBSERVATION**
  - Linking words
    - For, because, for this reason, therefore, since, if, then, so that, once-but now, by, through, etc.
  - Structure:
    - What is the plot?

- What are the units of thought? How do these units connect to one another? What is the flow of the argument?
  - People and places
  - Repetition
    - What ideas, phrases, words, etc. are repeated (eg. Eph. 1:3-15)?
  - Vocabulary
    - Key words, big words (eg. Rom. 3:23-25), names, etc.
  - Tone and feel (eg. Psalm 42)
  - Imagery and illustrations (eg. Matt. 13)
  - References to other parts of the Bible
- **MEANING**
  - What is/are the main point(s)? What are the supporting points?
  - Why did the author write this?
    - How does this passage make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus?
    - What does this passage teach us?
      - God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit
      - God's word, plans and purposes
      - Man: Who are we? What's wrong with us? What do we really need? Where are we going?
      - The world
      - The gospel
      - God's people, the church
      - Living in the gospel
    - How does this passage reprove us?
      - Sin
      - Warnings
    - How does this passage correct us?
      - Repent and believe
    - How does this passage train us in righteousness?
      - Trust and obey
    - How does this passage equip us for every good work?

### **3) Apply the passage of Scripture**

- **APPLICATION**

- The Bible is about: Jesus → us → me (eg. Phil. 2:1-13; Psalm 16)
- Aim for the heart (Luke 6:43-45; Ezek. 11:19-20)
  - “Heart” questions: What do we really want? Why do we do what we do? What makes me happy? What makes me worried? What do I fear? What do I treasure?
  - Our attitudes, desires, motivations, fears, treasure, etc. reveal what our hearts truly worship
  - God calls us to turn our hearts away from idols and to worship him alone
- Move from the gospel to life (Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 2)
- The Bible speaks to us as saints, sinners, and sufferers (1 Thess. 5:14)
  - Encourage, exhort, heal, strengthen, rebuke, admonish
- Types of application:
  - Knowing and believing the gospel
  - Teaching
  - Reproof
  - Correction
  - Training in righteousness
- Who?
  - Us, the church
  - Us, the CG
  - Me, in relation to others (eg. spouse, children, my boss, my colleagues, other Christians, non-Christians, etc.)
  - Me, in relation to the world (eg. work, the government, culture, social justice, etc.)
  - Me, as an individual Christian (eg. understanding, heart, actions, etc.)
- Areas of application
  - Belief
  - Belong
  - Behave

### **4) Based on (2) and (3), determine the goal of the study**

- After this study, I want the group to understand \_\_\_\_\_.
- Because they understand this, I want the group to change \_\_\_\_\_.
- Because they understand this, I want the group to live in this way: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **5) Organize the study**

- With (4) in mind, design questions that will help lead the group to arrive at the goal of the study.
- Types of questions:
  - Launching questions
  - Context questions
  - Observation questions
  - Meaning questions
  - Summary questions
  - Application questions
- What's a good question?
  - Open-ended, not closed
  - Makes people pay careful attention to the passage of Scripture
  - Makes people think
  - Sharp and simple
- Prepare together
  - Training new leaders
  - Encourage the rest of the group to own learning God's word
- Come up with prayer points that are based on (4)

Example: 2 Peter 1:3-15



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