

Community Group Leader Training September 2016 - Todd Terzo

Leading Gospel Centered Discussions In Community

Introduction:

The goal is to teach our CG participants to be active listeners in the service. We want to move beyond just hearing information to personally hearing from God. We want to be able to answer the following questions: What is the Spirit impressing upon me? How am I to respond personally to this message? In an effort to move our CG discussions toward life-changing application, I have used our 6 D's (-Develop, +Death) to help direct our questions.

Using Redeemer's 6 D's to Prepare for Community Group:

- **Discover** - What was it about God that was amazing this morning? What about God left you in wonder? What insight into his character made you rejoice?
- **Death** - (switched out Develop which is about planting more churches) - think of confession; Is there something the Holy Spirit is gently prodding you to admit to and are you willing to seek a changed heart? When you hear potentially convicting statements, do you justify your actions? Do you find yourself fighting for value and worth outside of God's unconditional acceptance of you? We grow spiritually more by doing it wrong than by doing it right.
- **Delight** - How did God affirm you, reassure you, or display his love for you this morning? Most likely involves his mercy toward you. (Think personal versus amazing facts about God (Discover)).
- **Declare** - Where is the Gospel in this teaching and how do I speak about it? Jesus is God in the flesh, a living translation of God eternal, who gives us an opportunity to see and relish God's heart toward us through his life and work on our behalf. What about this topic points to Jesus and his death and resurrection?
- **Dwell** - Assume you are in need. Rom 14 - many parts of the body, many gifts, we're meant to live in community. Perhaps this is best addressed in small men/women prayer groups. Make known your needs, both practical external needs and internal motivational needs. Assume others are in need also and seek to encourage and pray for them.
- **Disciple** - Whose life am I called to speak into, build a purposeful relationship with, and display the heart of God to? Start with where God has placed you - family, work, sports, church circles, hobbies.

Practical Implications and Questions:

How would this work in a Community Group setting?

- Start off by discussing the Biblical passage, sermon themes, clarifying the "information" that was presented.
- Maybe half way through your allotted discussion time, start to use one or more of the above types of questions to make sure the conversation is moving toward life-changing application.
- My hope is that this would become natural, that our CG would begin asking these questions without necessarily needing prompts but I think these prompts are initially helpful.
- After hearing the Sunday sermon, leaders can prepare by picking out 1-6 of these topics to bring up during their CG discussion time.
- Participants in CG could come prepared, ready to speak about personal application based on these questions.

Goals:

- As a church, we don't stray far from Redeemer's core values. (We keep the main things the main things!)
- Discussion leaders have focus to our discussions. We have a template that helps us discuss what is most life changing. Rom 12: 2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind".
- Participants in the CG are clear about what we think is most life changing and therefore what we want to spend the majority of our time discussing.
- The questions lend themselves to weekly advanced preparation no matter what the topic is.