

Vision Casting- Community

This Life Group time is aimed at two objectives. One, to begin laying the foundations for a biblical understanding and appreciation of community. And two, to help students understand that they have a role to play in cultivating and stewarding this Life Group community they have found themselves in! This small group time will also go a long way in setting the tone for the rest of the year with your students, so be sure encourage lots of sharing, and empower your students to help you shape the trajectory the group will take this year!

Introducing the Topic

For this session in particular, we will spend a large chunk of time on these introductory questions. This is a time for students to help each other put language to their experiences of and thoughts about community.

- When I say the word “community”, what do you think of?
- How do you think the world outside the church would define “community”?
- How do you think God would define “community”?
- Is there a difference in those two definitions? Why do you think that is?
- Have you ever had a really good community? What was good about it? *(Write down these answers because we will use them later!)*
- Have you ever been a part of a bad community? What made it so hard for you? *(Write down these answers as well, because we’ll circle back.)*
- Do you think it’s important to have community in church specifically? Why or why not?
- Do you think our world does a good job at community? Why or why not?

Scripture Study

As you transition to the Scripture Study portion of this session, remind students that Scripture is where we turn for truth. We want to continually reiterate that we study Scripture not just for the “Christian take” on a matter, but God’s revealed word, given to us out of love for our good.

- We’re going to look at a few different verses where the Bible talks about relationships with our Christian community:
- Read Proverbs 27:17.
- What is this verse saying?

-What do you think that means about community?

-Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

-What do you hear this verse saying?

-Is there a command in this verse? If so, what is it?

-What would it look like for us, as a class, to live this verse out well?

-Read Romans 12:3-13 together.

-What do you hear this verse saying?

-Why do you think Paul uses the image of a body with many parts to represent the Church?

-Do you think the Church today functions like one body with many parts? Why or why not?

-What would look different in the Church if we lived this verse out all the way?

Practical Application

We want students to be able to contextualize what Scripture teaches to their daily life. This portion of the conversation is centered around the practical application of the text, and aimed at helping students actually integrate this spiritual discipline into their walk with the Lord. In this week's time, we want to focus on encouraging students to take ownership of cultivating a godly community in their class.

-What does your ideal church community look like?

-What does the Bible say is important in community?

-How can we make our class look like that?

-How can you help make that happen?