

Good day, Community Group Leaders!

Attached is your Week #7 Your Story group material, also available at www.mccag.org by clicking on RESOURCES > COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERS

On behalf of all of the pastors, thank you so much for your partnership throughout this fall. We have done our best to deliver messages to inspire the great people of our church to intentionally partner with God in order to experience their best stories – EPIC lives! We thoroughly enjoy partnering with you in this way.

Let me now encourage you to NOT STOP.

Not only do I hope that your group will continue to meet (perhaps after a little break for the holidays), but that you will lead your group to plumb the depths and riches that we have in the **Word of God**. Do [Truth Search](#) together as a group for a season. (With that in mind, I'll be sending you an idea for Christmas!) Pick out a **Bible-focused study** in print or at [RightNow Media](#) - just get the study to me ahead of time for approval. (See last week's resources for some suggestions from RightNow.)

Relationships among your group are important, but the **presence of Christ among you** (as you discuss and pray and worship together) and the **prominence of the Word of God** are **ESSENTIALS** to people being transformed. Recall from early September that our goal is to help the people in our groups *take one step forward* in their spiritual journeys. **I'd love to hear from you about some of the steps taken by your group members!**

Here's a heads-up: We plan to begin a four-part series on The Holy Spirit beginning October 29th. These services will focus on the power of the Holy Spirit in believers' lives, and will include times of ministry with an emphasis on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is going to be really fun!

Let's keep journeying together, dear friends!

Sincerely His and yours,
Pastor Dwayne

WEEK #5 – BULLETIN INSERT

TEAM – Join a Team

Our best stories emerge as we **connect in COMMUNITY**, practice **GENEROSITY**, live on **MISSION**, and as we **join a TEAM**.

1. Jesus chose a **TEAM**.
2. There is **STILL** a need.
3. This is our **HOME**.
4. **RECOGNIZE** what you have.
5. Serving others brings **SATISFACTION**.



Revealing key ways
that we can partner
with God in order to
live an epic life

10/22/2017

JOIN A TEAM

Your Story

WELCOME/SNACKS 20 minutes

LEADERSHIP TIP: Always prayerfully choose from the questions in each section of the material.

OPEN 10 minutes

1. What is one practice, change of habit, etc., that you know you *should* do, but you just haven't found the energy for yet? How might the group help with this?

2. Briefly tell the group about a positive team experience that you had?

3. Play the "Team Knot Game"

Rules: Have everyone stand in a circle facing each other, shoulder to shoulder. Instruct everyone to put their right hand out and grab a random hand of someone across from them. Then, tell them to put their left hand out and grab another random hand from a different person across the circle.

Within a set time limit, the group needs to untangle the knot of arms without releasing their hands. If the group is too large, make multiple smaller circles and have the separate groups compete.

Objective: This game for team building relies heavily on good communication and teamwork. It also results in a lot of great stories and memories.

* (MCC assumes NO LIABILITY for injuries incurred or damaged furnishings!)

DISCUSS 25-35 minutes

1. On Sunday, Pastors Brandon & Dwayne summarized the entire *Your Story* series with this statement: "*Our best stories emerge as we connect in COMMUNITY, practice GENEROSITY, live on MISSION, and as we join a TEAM.*" Let's review by discussing the ideas behind each of these four ingredients. How do we "do" these things?

*(We connect in **community** by participating in our Sunday worship gatherings – BIG group – and by gathering to grow in small groups. God asks us to be **generous** in all areas of life, including our time, abilities/effort, and money – including giving the first 10th of our income to God through the local church. Our goal should be to live on **mission** everyday and everywhere we go – modeling what it means to be a follower of Christ and going/sending people cross culturally to share the Gospel. God wants us to partner in ministry with others so that, as **teams**, we can serve, encourage, and build one another up in love.)*

2. What has been some of the personal impact you've experienced by connecting in community with this group since September?

3. Do you agree that it is important for every person in the church to find a way to serve (minister to) others? Why or why not? Is it even possible for everyone to serve?

You might ask someone to read aloud Ephesians 4:11-13:

*11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,
12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up
13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

Why did Jesus give these five types of leaders to the Church?

(Not to DO the work of the ministry, but rather to prepare God's people to do the work of the ministry.)

What is the ultimate goal of all this ministry?

(So that everyone will become unified in their experience and knowledge of the Lord, becoming mature and looking more and more like Christ.)

4. Take time as a group to read aloud the account from Mark 6:30-44 of Jesus miraculously feeding a crowd for approximately ten thousand people.

How would you describe the team (of Disciples) that Jesus selected? *(diverse, imperfect, human)*

How would you have reacted to Jesus' statement: "You give them something to eat"?

Jesus had compassion on the crowd. What group of people do you feel the most compassion for? What could you do to act on that compassion? How could this small group help you do that?

5. Invite a volunteer to read 1 Peter 4:10 aloud.

1 Peter 4:10 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

How are you currently engaged in serving others in the church?

If you're not serving, what is preventing you from joining a team at MCC?

6. On Sunday, Pastor Brandon said that *"Serving others brings satisfaction."* (See Mark 6:42-44 for the Biblical reference.) How have you found this to be true?
7. Distribute the list of teams that were represented in the Foyer on Sunday (file attached). Encourage your group to take some time to look over the list.
Ask: For anyone who is not presently serving on a ministry team, Is there a team on this list that is of interest to you?

Encourage anyone who wishes to pursue more information about serving at MCC to click on the "Join a Team" banner at MCC's website or look under the "Volunteer" Tab.

GROUP RESPONSE & PRAYER 10-20 minutes

1. Consider picking one of the ministry teams on the list from Sunday to encourage as a group (perhaps by sending a "Thank You" card, or by personally expressing appreciation to team members as they serve next Sunday). Pray for that team's success during your group prayer time.
2. Let's take some time to encourage and appreciate one another. Who would care to share about what this group has meant to them over the past 7-8 weeks?

Before sharing and praying over prayer needs, take some time thank God for what He's done in and through your group thus far.

3. Be certain to discuss your meeting plans for the holidays (through Christmas) and what you might plan to study next as a group.

LEADERSHIP TIP: Don't forget your Group MISSION!