

COMMUNITIES/SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS –

MISSIONS/FEDERAL ELECTION/LORD’S PRAYER

OCTOBER 20, 2019

Welcome to another Sunday set aside to allow Communities and or small groups to meet. It is, of course, entirely up to each Community what will happen throughout this year, but it is hoped that opportunities given will be used and that energies will go to fulfill all four purposes of Communities: fellowship, pastoral care, discipleship and mission. Prior to the beginning of Advent there are but 4 designated Sundays left for Communities and small groups to meet, including today (October 20), November 3, 17 and December 1.

This guide begins with a question about missions – the question that Communities have been asked to ponder and dream about for October. For the question on missions please look at number III below – “A mindset on missions and a question.” If this has already been completed there are two other options given, namely questions about the federal election and questions about prayer based on the sermon series on the Lord’s Prayer.

While the sermons provide some back ground information and help to inform the conversation, one does not necessarily have to listen to the sermons in order to participate in the small groups. Without a worked out guide on the theme of prayer at this point, the sermon listening guides can be used as a way to get at the theme. Such guides are found at the Information Centre. Leading a group will take some work and creativity on the part of the group leaders...

(Note: sermons can be accessed online at ccrc.on.ca/sermons)

- I. **Beginning Your Time Together** (please refer to the material prepared for September 22, 2019 for suggestions as to how you might want to begin your time together.)
- II. **Some questions/matters to think about and discuss together as you meet as a Community.**
(Please refer to the material prepared for September 22, 2019 for the kinds of questions that you perhaps ought to be asking as you involve yourself in your Community. Take a question per meeting time either in your small group or when you gather for a larger Community event. Even if you are eating you can write the question on a paper and put it on the table to allow for discussion.)
- III. **Discussion Guide: A Mindset on Missions and a question. (Some of you started to address this question two weeks ago, but perhaps that was but a start. What are people thinking now?)**
To get to the background of this question, please refer to the material prepared for September 22 or October 6 as found on the church website – ccrc.on.ca/communities. The question is:

If God were to fulfill our church’s mission statement, what would that look like? What indicators would we use to know that our statement is being fulfilled?

Note: The idea is that the Communities or small groups spend time brain-storming, dreaming, pondering on the question raised and that the answers or thoughts be written down and submitted to the elders to add to the information to be discussed at the November 23 full council meeting which will address the future of CCRC. There is a sheet attached (page 3) to allow for some notes.

- IV. Federal Election:** Tomorrow Canadians go to the polls in the 46th general election. As you gather this Sunday, either as a Community or small group, it may be a good opportunity to talk together about the election (without getting into any sort of partisan fights or challenges).
1. How involved have you been in this campaign? Did you listen to debates or go out of your way to listen to local candidates? What have you done to inform yourself concerning the local candidates?
 2. Is it important to vote? Why or why not?
 3. What sorts of thoughts do you have about the election process?
 4. How do you go about deciding who you will vote for?
 5. What do you think the main issues are in this campaign or even facing Canada or our community?
 6. What considerations come into play as you go to the polls as a Christian?
 7. If you have children, what are you telling them about the election or about voting or about politics? How do your children hear you talking about the candidates or the parties involved in the campaign?
 8. What are your thoughts about the role of the church in an election?
 9. When we pray “your kingdom come”
- V. The Lord’s Prayer** – Our study of the prayer is based on the teaching of the Heidelberg Catechism (Lord’s Days 45-52). When studying prayer, it is helpful to have a copy of the Catechism on hand.
1. When listening to the sermons, what has struck you so far about the Lord’s Prayer?
 2. What is prayer?
 3. Why pray?
 4. What sorts of approaches to prayer do you use in your personal life, or your family life?
 5. Why begin the prayer with “Our Father”?
 6. What does it mean to “hallow” the Father’s name? How many names for God can you come up with from Scripture? List them.
 7. What are we saying when we pray “Your Kingdom come”?
 8. Imagine out loud how your life (your family, your work, your home, your neighbourhood) would be different if God’s Kingdom would already be here in all its fullness.
 9. What does it mean when we say “Your will be done?” Are we being fatalistic?
- VI. Prayer:** As you close out your time together, take the opportunity to spend some time in prayer about your CCRC Community as well as the geographic area in which you find yourselves. Pray that the Lord would open doors of service not only in the CCRC Community, but also in the broader community around you. Why not close reciting the words of the Lord’s Prayer.

“Growing in Relationship with God, each other and our community”

If our church’s mission statement were fulfilled:

What would that look like and how would we know?

Please list your ideas for each of the community purposes	What does fulfilling our mission look like?	By what measures would we know it was fulfilled?
<u>Fellowship:</u> With God, Each Other And Our Community		
<u>Pastoral Care:</u> With God, Each Other And Our Community		
<u>Discipleship:</u> With God, Each Other And Our Community		
<u>Mission:</u> With God, Each Other And Our Community		

Use additional sheets if necessary. Please label them clearly.

