

Group Leader Guide (Week: 9/19-9/25)

Series: Vision – “Whole Hearts”

Text(s): Isaiah 48:9-11; 43:5-7

Title: “Passion for God’s Glory”

BIG Idea: *If God’s greatest passion is the glory of his name, then our greatest passion should be the glory of his name.*

Focus this week: the first month of Growth Groups should always focus on fellowship more than anything. Fellowship is the glue that holds the group together. Be sure to spend plenty of time getting to know each other and grow in comfortability with one another. This is why it helps to have icebreakers, food, music, etc. at the beginning of your meeting. This will pay dividends in the later months.

FELLOWSHIP TIME (15 minutes)

Be sure to plan out some way to implement casual fellowship time as people come to your group. You can have snacks, drinks, nametags, music, etc.

STARTING OFF THE NIGHT (15 minutes)

After the fellowship time at the beginning of your meeting, have everyone find their seats and start off with an icebreaker. You can use one of the icebreakers from the leader resource page found here: <https://lifewayresearch.com/2020/02/19/75-icebreaker-questions-for-church-small-groups/> Be sure to also include some serious questions as well: *Where did you grow up? How many siblings do you have? What do you do for work? What has been the most encouraging thing for you this week?*

- **Pow’s and Wow’s:** After you do the icebreaker, one thing you can do to start your group off each week is called “Pow’s and Wow’s”. Have each person go around and share a “pow” (a low moment from the past week) and a “wow” (a high point moment from the last week). This can also be a great way to learn how you can pray for one another.

DISCUSSION (30 minutes)

You can start discussion by saying, “This past Sunday we started a new Vision Series called ‘Whole Hearts.’ The beginning of the sermon explained why we were renewing the mission and vision of CAB. The “Capital ‘C’ Church”¹ and even Church at Bergen has undergone a series of traumatic events that have forced the church to ask and answer questions the following questions: Identity -

¹ This is a term that is referring to the entire church across America. Historically, theologians have distinguished between the “Universal Church” and the “Local Church.”

Who are we? Location - Where are we? Destination – Where are we going? These are questions that have to do with mission and vision of a church.”

1. Have you ever been a part of a group, organization, or team that was unclear on mission and vision? What was that experience like?
The purpose of this question is to get people to think through the importance of having clear mission and vision. Make sure that people steer clear from talking too negatively about anyone in particular.
2. What do you think are the negative consequences of not having a clear mission and vision for the local church? Or, what do you think the benefits are having a clear mission and vision?
This question is meant to help people think through why churches need mission and vision. One of the most helpful things for a church going through a vision series is for the people to support and be eager to hear and “buy in” to the future mission and vision for the church.

The first half of the sermon focused on the question, “What is God’s passion and mission?” We looked at Isaiah 48, focusing specifically on verses 9-11.

3. Before talking about a local church’s mission, why do you think it is important to understand God’s mission first?
A church can have a really creative and exciting mission that it unites around, but it cannot be aligned with the mission of God. A church without a God-centered, biblical vision is going to be an unfaithful and worldly church.
4. Have someone in the group read Isaiah 48:9-11 and Isaiah 43:5-7, then say, “The first passage revealed God’s passion for his glory, and the second passage proves that we were created to join God in glorifying his name. Has this been a hard concept for you to grasp or accept? Why or why not? In what way is this good news, rather than unwelcome news, that God does all things for his glory?
God must be self-centered or else he will be an idolator and love something created more than the Creator. But our joy is fullest when our hearts are centered and most passionate about him. So, for God to center our lives on him is the best thing for us.

The sermon concluded by connecting our mission with the mission of God. We exist to live with passion for God’s glory in every area of life. We were not made live a boring, lukewarm, and passionless life.

5. Have someone read Colossians 3:23 then ask, “What point in your life would you say you were living most passionately for Jesus Christ? Describe and explain what you think might have contributed to you living that way during that season of life.”
This is to help people reflect on the time when they were most fully in line with God’s mission for them to glorify him. It also helps them to think through what they might need to implement back into their lives again in order to reignite passion for Jesus Christ once again.

The new mission of Church at Bergen answers the question, “How will we glorify God as a local church?” Answer: ***by pursuing lives of wholehearted love for Jesus Christ and our neighbor.*** The next 6 weeks the church will be preaching through what this looks like biblically.

6. How can we pray for one another today in light of this renewed mission of pursuing lives of wholehearted love for Jesus Christ and our neighbor?
This is a time to let the new mission of CAB begin challenging and pushing us to change and readjust according to God’s will. We need God’s help to do that so you need to spend time praying with and for each other.

Close your meeting by spending some time praying for one another.