



Seeking The Heart Of Your City Or Town Module

Group Discussion Guide on Lessons 1-3

Meeting: Zoom or in person (adjust as needed)

Goal: To help pastors process the Introduction and Lessons 1-3

Length: 60 - 75 mins

Announcements (5 mins): Discussion Leader shares a few reminders

- You should have already set up your account for the Regional Learning Module. All of the content we will discuss at this meeting and the next will be based on your work there. (Any questions can be directed to Tori McGraw Rowe, tori.mcgraw-rowe@vineyardusa.org)
- Discussion Leader shares why seeking the heart of your city or town is so important
 - Jesus loved his community. Share scripture that demonstrates that (John 1:14 MSG, John 3:16)
 - Love leads to service (Mt. 9:36)
 - Jesus wants us to transform our communities (Mt 5.13 and 5.14)
 - But it starts with our yes to go outside the walls of the church. The orienting question that drives this module is: *If the Kingdom of God came into your city, what would change?*

Discussion (40 mins): Discussion Leader processes through steps one to three.

1. ICEBREAKER QUESTION: *If the Kingdom of God came into your city, what would change?*

2. Do you have a heart for your city or town? If so, do you think your city or town notices and knows how that manifests practically?
3. After watching John's talk on seeking the heart of your city or town, what were some of the things that stood out to you and challenged you? What did you learn? What were you reminded of?
4. Do you pray for your city? How might you start?
5. Do you know the redemptive history of your city or town?
6. Between praying for your community, asking others about the redemptive history of your city or town, or just starting to serve, which invitation can you commit to between now and the group's next meeting?

MINISTRY (15 mins)

A few ministry prompts...if you are meeting in person, perhaps have everyone break off into pairs or triads to pray for each other.

1. Some of us have desired to be more outward-focused in our cities or towns, but we have struggled with fear. Ask the Lord to minister courage and love as love casts out all fear.
2. Some people struggle with busyness and the frustration of adding one more thing. Ask God to give you a burden for your city or town so that you have a wellspring from God as you lean into this challenging work.
3. Some people are rejoicing over this call to love outside the walls of the church. Ask God to bless that desire. If that desire might not be shared across your congregation or leadership, pray for wisdom and favor.
4. Pray for blessing and an empowering of the Spirit for this Kingdom task to love your community well.