

Module 7: Throughout the Week

CONDUCTORS NOT MUSICIANS

What can a HUMANITY Leader can do throughout the week in between meetings? What is their role to equip the fivefold ministries of the other HUMANITY participants in their group?

The wild and beautiful thing about the Church, is that God designed it so that we are completely and utterly dependent on Him and on one another. He describes us as a Body with Jesus as the head and each and every one of His followers as a part of the Body. Everyone unique and varied in their gifting and contribution, and everyone essential. Yet, at the same time, everyone hopelessly lost without Jesus as their source, and without connection to the other parts: one another. Even Jesus chose not to go at it alone! He chose us, the Church, as His way to bring people to Him. In other words, no one can be a lone ranger or even a super star solo act in this mission of the Church, not even Jesus!

As the leader of your own group (church), it is your great honor, priority, and challenge to equip and empower those in your group to take ownership of their gifts to then equip others in the group. Without every one of them seeing themselves as critical to the Body, the Church in the bigger sense and your group/church itself will limp along, never fully understanding or experiencing the power and beauty of a healthy and purpose-driven community under Jesus. There is so much unimaginable potential waiting to be unlocked that is inherent to every person in your group! Some gifts may be out right clear in some, while others may need some time, clarity, and support in recognizing those unique contributions, but you can know with confidence that it is certainly there!

FIVE-FOLD

One of the best places to start in supporting your group members to get clear on their gifts is from a passage in Ephesians 4 that refers to these five specific gifts sometimes referred to as “the five-fold.”

Ephesians 4:11 outlines these five gifts from Christ to us:
Apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, and pastors.

The names can sometimes throw us off so here is another way to think about each of these five:

1. Apostles (Spiritual Entrepreneurs): those who pave way for new possibilities, trail blaze a direction for the future, quick to try new things, or

- to invite people into unknown territory and usher a future vision into a reality.
2. Prophets: those in-tune with the heart-beat and voice of God, who have special divine insight into expressing God's strengthening, encouragement and comfort, and who create room for the Holy Spirit to guide and connect with others.
 3. Teachers (Gurus): those who seem to have a knack for comprehending and then communicating Scriptural and spiritual concepts, who "nerd out" at times on the facts/context/details that will communicate the full message or ideas needed for others to know the heart of God.
 4. Evangelists : those who are bursting with a message of good news, and who love to invite others into an encounter with the love of Jesus, those who share stories of hope, and who are a "walking invitation" to join the abundance that's offered to them.
 5. Pastor: those who live, eat, and breathe care and intentionality with others in a way that's personal, and who notice those missing or on the outside, or who take great joy in serving those in need, or sharing someone's greatest as well as most difficult moments in life.

As a leader, your role is to support each group member in identifying which of the five is their strongest default. You can do this by inviting them to share which of the five they most strongly identify with, they can ask others around them for insight, and they can also gain some insight by taking a brief free Fivefold assessment online at: www.fivefoldsurvey.com

Have each person in your group identify which of the five they most connect with, and invite them to share, and to even write down each other's, so they can all be familiar with each other's gifts. Have an open discussion and brainstorm creative ways each of them can take ownership of their gift.

The important thing to share with the group, is not only to identify their unique Christ-given gift, but to be aware of it for THE PURPOSE OF equipping and maturing the Church. In other words, if, for example, Sarah in the group tends to be strong in evangelism, it's not Sarah's job alone to share good news and invite others to experience the hope and love of Jesus, it's Sarah's job to EQUIP the group in doing that as well!

Here are some small examples out of many, that you could empower your group members to own their part in the Body in these five areas:

Apostles:

- Be intentional to include them on conversations about supporting the group in taking new ground. How do they foresee the group taking on new levels of outreach? Would they be willing to spear-head the direction needed for xyz?

Prophets:

- Invite them to be bold and set the tone and example for the Ministry Time during group. Is there someone in particular in your group, or a person connected to your group who is not a follower of Jesus that they might have a picture/word/prayer for?

Teachers (Gurus):

- Ask them to take ownership and give an example to others of leading the Scripture part of time in group. Would they consider teaching others in how to lead and teach that time as well?

Evangelists (Guide):

- Get insight from them on the monthly outreach/service/connection times that the group is embracing as a whole. They could be the ones to lead out on helping group members create their "Blessing List" to be intentional in the group as a whole praying for those in their "oikos"/area of influence and in thinking of ideas to meet those people where they are at.

Pastors (Guardian):

- At the end of the group, see if they will take ownership of not only assigning out people in the group to reach out to those missing, but also to lead efforts or the delegation of making sure group member needs are met when events or needs arise.

Prophet (Activist):

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

It's one thing to know your role and responsibilities during the actual weekly group time, but what about all the other days of the week? You've probably noticed that how connected or intentional the group is throughout the week, has a direct ripple effect on how that group time itself goes, not to mention your group's overall closeness or how purposeful you are together.

There is definitely something to be said about you personally connecting with each member every week. That is wonderful and highly encouraged, to just let people know what you mean to them, are praying for them, and that it's not just a "once a week" relationship to you. So definitely, be all in in that way. But your leadership takes on a whole new level when you are not the only one that people are connected to. You nudging and prompting one person in the group to reach

out to another; you empowering the pastor(s) in your group to initiate that “meal train” for that other person’s need; you asking one person to consider reaching out to that other person because you know they have similar stories in overcoming that struggle... those are going to be the things that further your impact and once again, invites each individual to see themselves connected and vital to the whole.

Throughout the weeks ideas:

- pray weekly by name for your group members.
- call or send texts letting them know you’re thinking about them, or what you see in them, or what you prayed for them.
- ***Prayer is your fast-track way of actually KNOWING and growing in your LOVE and CARE for them.
- write out a card every once in a while to hand or mail them
- empowering group members to reach out to each other for specific needs or connections
- inviting group members along to simply just “do life” together! Have them come over when your house is a mess, or you’re just running an errand, or going for a walk.
- ***Make sure the group has EACH OTHER’S contact info.
- Start a group communication hub... through GroupMe or WhatsApp or another agreed upon source