

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

The following are suggested resources to be used in your mentoring relationship and discussed during your meeting times.

Spiritual Direction - Group Leadership - Disciple-making

- **Gospel Coach**, Scott Thomas & Tom Wood
- **Soul Talk**, Larry Crabb
- **Connecting**, Larry Crabb
- **Field Guide for Small Group Leaders**, Sam O'Neal
- **Walking the Small Group Tightrope**, Donohue & Robinson
- **Spiritual Leadership**, J. Oswald Sanders
- **The Great Omission**, Dallas Willard
- **The Master Plan of Evangelism**, Robert Coleman
- **Sacred Companions**, David Benner

Theology - Doctrine

- **Basic Christianity**, John R.W. Stott
- **30 Days to Understanding the Bible**, Max Anders
- **Christian Beliefs: 20 Essential Doctrines**, Wayne Grudem
- **Mere Christianity**, C.S. Lewis
- **Theological Interpretation of NT/OT**, Kevin Van Hoozer, ed.
- **Discipleship Essentials**, Greg Ogden
- **God's Big Picture**, Vaughn Roberts

Spiritual Formation / Spiritual Disciplines

- **The Good and Beautiful Series**, James Bryan Smith
- **Celebration of Discipline**, Richard Foster
- **Holy Available**, Gary Thomas
- **Inside Out**, Larry Crabb
- **The Life You've Always Wanted**, John Ortberg
- **Revolution of Character**, Dallas Willard/Don Simpson
- **Sacred Pathways**, Gary Thomas
- **Seasons of the Soul**, Bruce Demarest
- **The Gift of Being Yourself**, David Benner
- **Inside Job**, Steve Smith

Relationships

- **Age of Opportunity**, Paul David Tripp
- **Boundaries**, Henry Cloud and John Townsend
- **Everybody's Normal 'Til You Get to Know Them**, John Ortberg
- **The Five Love Languages**, Gary Chapman
- **Sacred Marriage**, Gary Thomas
- **Shepherding a Child's Heart**, Tedd Tripp

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR CG LEADER

It is vital as you first begin your relationship with your Community Group Leader to get their more 'detailed' spiritual story. Understanding their story is critical to your ability to direct them spiritually, help them identify potential idols, and encourage them where strong growth as already taken place (see Psalm 139:1-7). It is difficult to minister to them where they are, if you don't know how they got there.

After they have shared their story, you share your story, so your CG Leader has a good picture of your journey. It may require 1-2 meetings just for each of you to share your stories in more depth.

The next step that is critical to your success as a Community Director is identifying a regular meeting pattern (every other week or monthly) and meeting day & time. If your leader has a shifting work schedule, make sure that each meeting ends with getting the next date set on the calendar.

As you engage in your regular meetings with your CG Leader(s), remain sensitive to "leading with your ears". Listen well, ask a lot of questions, and resist the urge to "fix" their challenges.

As you listen, ask the Holy Spirit to show you any present challenges/strongholds/patterns in their life that might need attention. Ask probing questions, such as...

"Where do you sense God is working on you the most right now?",

"What has God been teaching you lately?",

"What would you say is the current temperature of your intimacy with Christ?",

"What part of walking with Christ are you most challenged with right now?"

The goal with all of these questions is to determine:

Where is the reality of their present life intersecting the cost of following Christ?

Be mindful of asking good follow-up questions to get beyond the superficial responses, such as...

"I just really need patience right now,"... "How do you want God to show up in this circumstance? Why do you think He isn't doing that?"

"Things are just really busy right now,"... "How long have you been feeling this way? How have you personally contributed to the busyness?"

"I just need to be more consistent."... "If you are more consistent, how do you think that will change things?"



See also:

Questions for the Personal and Leadership Journey on page 24.

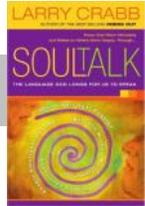
Enter your meetings prayerful that God will help you be present and unhurried with your leader, so that you can serve them well.

LEADING BETWEEN MEETINGS

- Give “homework” or next steps of obedience to complete between meetings as a point of follow through on your discussions.
- If you have a leader that needs more processing time for your conversations, send a few questions you will ask a couple of days before your next meeting to give them time to process and prepare.
- Use email, text, phone to connect between meetings. Send them an encouraging text, or check on the status of the homework you gave them to do.
- Send them a handwritten note of encouragement after a meeting, especially if you feel like had to speak a hard word to them.
- Make note of important events in your leader’s life, and acknowledge them (job interviews, doctor’s appointments, death in the family, milestones of their children, birthdays).

SOULTALK: TRANSCENDENT CURIOSITY

*This is an excerpt from **SoulTalk**, by Larry Crabb.*



The Fundamental Question:

“Father, what are you up to in this person’s life, and how do you want me to come alongside you in that work?”

What we have to practice is “Conversational Progression.”

- 1) moving from ‘small talk’ to current ‘journeying realities’...
- 2) from details of the ‘journeying realities’ to what God seems to be stirring beneath...
- 3) from discerning God’s stirring to self-discovery of ‘next steps’

Essentials:

- Be safe, but not soft!
- We are God’s voice to ask, as He did of Adam, ‘Where are you?’
 - God knows where they are, but we must help them see where they are.
- Discerning movement from the kingdom of Hell and from the Kingdom of Heaven.

QUESTIONS TO ENGAGE INNER CONVERSATION

Gordon McDonald challenges leaders to ask the following questions to engage our inner conversation.

- 1) *What have been the beautiful moments in which God may have been revealing himself to me? And what have been the evil moments when the worst in me or in the larger world showed itself?*
- 2) *What happened this week that needs to be remembered, perhaps recorded in a journal so I can return to it in the future and recall the blessing (or the rebuke) of God? Making such a record is like those monuments and altars God had the Israelites raise up when great things worth remembering had happened.*
- 3) *What have my prevailing feelings been (and what are they at the present)? Has there been a preponderance of sadness, of fear, of anger, of emptiness? Or has it been a time where joy and enthusiasm has been the dominant mood*
- 4) *What have been the “blessings,” those acts of grace that have come through others or—as I perceive it—directly from God himself? Can I express praise and appreciation (sometimes even written in a thank-you note or journal)?*
- 5) *Have things happened for which I need to accept responsibility, perhaps leading to repentance? Why did they happen? Were they avoidable and how can they be prevented in the future?*
- 6) *What have been the thoughts that have been dominating my leader think-time? Noble thoughts? Escapist thoughts that woo me away from more important or challenging issues? Superficial thoughts that lead to nowhere?*
- 7) *Is there a possibility that I am living in denial of certain realities? Painful criticism, sloppy work, habitual patterns that are hurting me and others?*
- 8) *Are there any resentments or ill feelings toward others that remain unaddressed, unforgiven?*
- 9) *As a leader visualizing myself in the company of spouse, children, friends, colleagues: am I a pleasant person to be around? Are people challenged, elevated, enthused when I enter the room? As someone has observed, “Some people bring joy wherever they go; others bring joy when they go.” Which am I?*
- 10) *What is God trying to say into my life today? Through Scripture? Through other readings? What has he been saying through those in my inner circle of relationships? Through critics? What insights swirl up and out of the deepest parts of my soul? Which of them needs to be repudiated, and which needs to be cultivated?*
- 11) *What are the possibilities in the hours ahead? Where might there be ambushes that would challenge character, reputation, well-being?*
- 12) *What are the things I might do and say that would make the people in my inner circle feel more loved and appreciated?*
- 13) *Am I mindful of the socially awkward, the poor, the suffering, the oppressed in my local world and in the larger world? Am I in tune with appropriate current events in the world and perceiving them through the lens of biblical perspective?*
- 14) *What specific steps will I take today to enhance growth as a follower of Jesus?*

MENTORING QUESTIONS

- (1) Where are you right now in your relationship with God?*
- (2) What have you read in the Bible in the last week?*
- (3) What has God been saying to you in this?*
- (4) Where do you find yourself resisting God these days?*
- (5) What specific things do you find yourself praying for regarding others?*
- (6) What specific things do you find yourself praying for yourself?*
- (7) What specific tasks are facing you that you consider incomplete?*
- (8) What habits are intimidating you at present?*
- (9) What have you read in the secular press this week?*
- (10) What general reading have you been doing?*
- (11) What have you done to play this week?*
- (12) How are you doing with your spouse/kids?*
- (13) If I were to ask your spouse about your state of mind, spirit, etc., what would he/she say?*
- (14) Are you sensing any spiritual attacks from the enemy this week? Today?*
- (15) If Satan were to try to invalidate you as a servant of God, where or how would he attack you?*
- (16) What is the state of your sexual life (temptation, fantasy, etc)?*
- (17) Where are you at financially (Do you have control, debts, etc)?*
- (18) Are there any unresolved conflicts (ailing relatives, stress, disputes) in your circle of relationships right now (family, friends those among whom we're supposed to feel safe)?*
- (19) When was the last time you spent time with a friend of the same gender?*
- (20) What kind of time have you spent with a non-Christian this past week?*
- (21) What challenges do you expect to face in the coming month?*
- (22) What are your fears at the present time (letting family down, bodies letting us down, etc)?*
- (23) Are you sleeping well?*
- (24) What three things are you most thankful for?*
- (25) Do you like yourself at this point of your pilgrimage?*
- (26) What are your greatest confusions about your relationship with God?*

QUESTIONS FOR THE PERSONAL & LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

Asking good questions is key to knowing those you lead and to discovering what areas of growth are necessary. To aid you in engaging in these types of conversations, we want to add to your leadership toolbox a bookmark with suggested types of questions.

Use these questions for your own personal reflection, as well as in your meetings with your Community Director, group members, and apprentice leader.



These questions available in bookmark form, upon request

Personal Journey

What has God been teaching you lately? Through your personal devotions? Your relationships? Your circumstances?

What has been most satisfying in your relationship with Jesus lately?

Where have you seen the Holy Spirit produce new fruit in your life?

What has been most frustrating in your relationship with Jesus lately? How are you needing God to show up?

What has been occupying your prayer time in the last couple of weeks?

How is your soul? What has been giving you joy these days?

What emotion has been your closest companion in the last month?

How have you seen the hand of God recently in your marriage? Parenting? Work?

What kind of space have you been giving to God in the last month to bring about His vision & purposes for your life?

What do you feel like is influencing your behavior & decisions the most right now?

Leadership Journey

What kind of transformation are you witnessing in your group members? How are you seeing them live out the Gospel?

How do you think God is using you to bring about the transformation you are witnessing in your group members?

For the sake of the group, is there any area in your life that God is challenging you to be more vulnerable with during the group time?

What group members seem to be “stuck” in their spiritual journey right now? Why do you think they are “stuck”? What next step will you encourage them to take?

How can you intentionally encourage your group members with the life change you are seeing in them, their relationships, their life priorities?

Are there any difficult conversations with a group member you have been putting off? Why are you reluctant?

How have you been praying for your group members in the past month? How are you seeing God respond to your petitions?

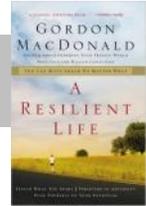
Are there any group members you need to begin spending more time with, so you might influence their journey more?

How well do you feel like your group is serving? What next steps do you need to take to help your group members discover and utilize their spiritual gifts?

Are there any group members that you need to begin challenging to take a next step into group leadership? How will that challenge go beyond 1 or 2 conversations?

QUESTIONS FOR THE GENERATIONS

Adapted from **A Resilient Life**, by
Gordon MacDonald.



In your 20's

- *What kind of man or woman am I becoming?*
- *Can I loved and am I lovable?*
- *Around what person or conviction will I organize my life?*

In your 30's

- *Who are the people with whom I know I will walk through life?*
- *What does my spiritual life look like?*
- *Do I even have time for one?*
- *How do I prioritize the demands being made upon my life?*

In your 40's

- *What can I do to make a greater contribution to my generation?*
- *Why do some people seem to be doing better than I?*
- *Why am I often disappointed in myself and others?*
- *How has my childhood continued to influence and perhaps limit the kind of person I am today?*

In your 50's

- *Why is time moving so fast and my body becoming more unreliable?*
- *How do I deal with, learn from, and move forward from my failures and successes?*
- *What part of my life's legacy has yet to be written?*

In your 60's

- *What have I done and what I will yet do that will outlive me?*
- *When do I stop doing the things that have always defined me?*
- *What replaces those things?*
- *What will I retire to?*

From your 70's onward

- *Is there anything that I can still contribute?*
- *Does anyone realize who I once was, what I've done? Does my life's story still matter?*
- *Am I ready to face death?*
- *Is there heaven?*

SPIRITUAL FORMATION QUESTIONS

- Adapted from John Welsey

1. *Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?*
2. *Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?*
3. *Do I confidentially pass on to others what has been said to me in confidence?*
4. *Can I be trusted?*
5. *Am I a slave to dress, friends, work or habits?*
6. *Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?*
7. *Did the Bible live in me today?*
8. *Do I give the Bible time to speak to me every day?*
9. *Am I enjoying prayer?*
10. *When did I last speak to someone else of my faith?*
11. *Do I pray about the money I spend?*
12. *Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?*
13. *Do I disobey God in anything?*
14. *Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?*
15. *Am I defeated in any part of my life?*
16. *Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy or distrustful?*
17. *How do I spend my spare time?*
18. *Am I proud?*
19. *Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?*
20. *Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?*
21. *Do I grumble or complain constantly?*
22. *Is Christ real to me?*

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK INSTEAD OF “HOW’S YOUR WALK WITH GOD?”

What is something you desire in your life these days?

Who in your life (past or present) has given you a taste of God’s love?

When or where are you most likely to be aware of God’s presence? When or where are you least aware of God’s presence?

What do you think God feels [or things or is doing] in you as you experience this situation or relationship?

How is your view of God changing because of this experience?

How would you like God to help you in this?

How do you think God is inviting you to respond to this?

How would you like to experience God in the next few weeks?

What would be helpful to you right now?

Source: Addie Zierman
<http://addiezierman.com/2016/05/19/10-questions-to-ask-instead-of-hows-your-walk-with-god/>