

FUSION HOUSE CHURCH RESOURCES

30 DAYS OF PRAYER: DISCERNMENT TOOL

Adapted for Fusion from Beyond the Ordinary: Spirituality for Christian Leaders by Ben Cambell Johnson and Andrew Dreticer

As we prepare to engage the problems of our neighborhoods, we want to do so as a community that is unified in spirit and in mind. In the face of a world in great need, it is easy to give ourselves so wholly to the mission that our serving God can replace our knowing God. We have hope that we would see together a transformation within us and within our city. We do not engage in the mission FOR God. We engage mission WITH God.

Because our work is WITH God—we must make sure we are listening to Him—sensitive to His way of seeing our city and willing to join His work in our city. As we begin our Fusion House Churches we also begin a season of discernment—group listening to God. Discernment is the process by which we distinguish the movement of the Spirit among us. We are seeking God’s leading within our community on behalf of those who are the “least, last, and lost” of our city. Every house church will engage in this process of discernment.

LISTEN

Seeking God’s guidance involves listening for His voice. Just like listening for anything else, listening means stopping and silencing the noise. As you listen, how do you sense God inviting you to participate in reaching out to our city?

WATCH

Seeking God’s guidance also involves watching. Believing that God is in our midst, watching the process by which we seek to see God in the world around us. As you watch the local news, read the local paper, or talk to neighbors and local friends, where do you see God? How might He be asking you to join Him in redeeming your community?

PREPARE

Listening and watching for God’s leading doesn’t keep us from getting ready for what He will invite us to do. It can often be an experience that helps us understand what God’s leading is for us. Are you ready to enter into this season of discernment with your house church?

QUESTIONS TO AID OUR AWARENESS

What is God telling us through our experiences, surroundings, passions, and burdens?

SURROUNDINGS. What is God already doing in our neighborhood that we can join in? What needs attention in our neighborhood that we could address?

STORY. How has my story prepared me to engage our city? What does my story tell us about what God may be calling us to do?

PASSIONS & GIFTS. What stirs my heart as it relates to the redemptive work of Christ in our city? What skills, abilities, and resources do I have to offer in this work?

PROCESS FOR DISCERNMENT

Discernment may be a new process for you, so here are a few methods on how to begin. First, if we seek to discern God’s heart and join ourselves to it, it is very important that we repent of anything that could keep us from seeing or hearing clearly.

PRAYER FOR REPENTANCE. Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, for the fame of the One True God.

Over the 30 days, we invite you to regularly practice the Daily Examen.

EVENING PRAYER OF EXAMEN FROM ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA.

Recall that you are in God's presence:

Quiet yourself and sit comfortably, recalling that you are in God's presence. Ask the Spirit to help you look at your life with love this day.

Look at your day with gratitude:

After a few moments, begin to thank God for the gifts of the day. Think of the small pleasures of your day. Then recall how you were a gift today. Thank God for these things.

Ask for help:

In a moment you will review your day and how you responded to God's gifts. Before doing so, ask the Spirit to join you and help you look at your actions clearly and with understanding.

Review your day:

Think through your day from the moment you awoke until now.

Ask, when did I fail?

When did I love?

What habits/patterns did I exhibit?

What are the positive and negative?

How did you engage mission today?

Where could you have engaged mission today but didn't?

Reconcile and Resolve:

Remember the good decisions of your day and thank God.

Remember the poor decisions of your day and feel sorrow for them.

Ask for God's grace for tomorrow.

Finish by acknowledging again that you are in God's presence.

DISCERNING AS A GROUP

During our Fusion House Churches we will explore how God might be calling us to join His work within our city.

SILENT MOMENTS TOGETHER. Ask everyone to become silent and still, close their eyes, and begin to consider the significant aspects of our mission as Christ followers and the needs of our city.

IMAGINING FROM THE GOSPELS. Another way in which we can be more fully aware of God's work is seeing Jesus at work in the Gospels. Take a story of Christ's miracles, calling others to follow and engage the story personally. Is God showing you more clearly how He is at work within our city?

LISTENING TO OTHERS STORIES. There are many other people and places who are joining the work of God among their city. Consider stories you are hearing—How are they resonating with you in regard to our work in this city? Do these same actions translate to our city—meeting the needs of our “least, last, and lost” groups?