



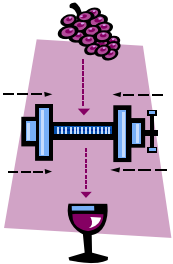
Theory Into Practice Titus 3

Community Reflection is Vineyard Boise’s small group leader resource to help you lead/facilitate your group effectively. It’s made up of four parts: **CONNECT**, **PROCESS**, **COMMIT**, and **SHARE**. It’s a basic plan for your group time as you track with our current Sunday teaching series. Leading a small group is as much an art as it is a science, so consider this a “palette” from which to draw colors for the “canvas” of your small group time. This guide is intended to be your servant, not your master! Be creative, have fun, and stay attentive to what God is doing in your group this week. The time listed for each of the four parts is just a guideline to help keep you on track as you lead your group. (Total suggested time, just under two hours.)



CONNECT (15-20 minutes)

1. Welcome everyone. If your group is new or you have new people in the group, take a few minutes to introduce yourselves.
2. You might consider having the group read a Psalm together as a lead into worship. Pick a favorite, or you could use **Psalm 1** (theme: the quiet, consistent fruitfulness of a God-centered person).
3. Worship! Live, CD, DVD, or however...worship is one of the best defenses against a purely intellectual group experience and really helps set the stage for what is usually the “main course” of a small group meeting – processing the truth together.



PROCESS (35-45 minutes)

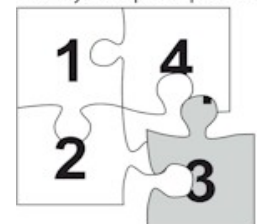
1. Although the weekly devotions are moving through the three chapters of Titus in order, the Sunday teaching series is moving through Titus topically. You might consider having your group debrief the past Sunday’s teaching – what insights were gleaned, what points resonated, what questions were raised, what personal applications have been made.
2. Ask your group how they did with their devotions this past week. What stood out as they worked through them? What questions or issues were raised?
3. Pick one of the options below to start or spur on further group discussion:

Option A

The bedrock of a changed life

Read Titus 3:1-8 & Ephesians 2:1-10. As a group, summarize Paul’s description of our life B.C. and A.D. (before and after Christ). Invite the group to share with each other where they have been and where they are now in Jesus. Pray over anyone who feels they are still stuck in B.C.; celebrate the new life of those who have experienced change in Jesus. You might also use this occasion to have group members share the changes they have personally witnessed in each other as a result of walking with Jesus together.

Weekly Discipleship Track



1. Life reflection – need for change, hunger for God
2. Presentation of truth – teaching and studying
3. Processing the truth – reflection and debrief in community
4. Life change – response to truth, new habits and actions

Community Reflection

Option B

The dead-end of religious bickering

Read through Titus 3:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:14-19. Have your group reflect on past experiences of “religious bickering” – perhaps even within the group itself. Work as a group in identifying the causes of religious quarrels and the results. Together define a solution, and outline the criteria for knowing when it’s time to stand and fight, and when it’s time to extend freedom and move along.

- *You might suggest this picture to the group as the discussion unfolds. Picture the cross with a series of concentric circles drawn around it. It’s a bullseye with the cross in the center. When an issue arises that stirs up religious debate, the question is how close to the center bullseye of the cross that issue is landing. You can call this the “cross-centric” approach. If the issue is dead on (for instance the resurrection of Jesus) there’s no wiggle room and it’s time to fight. If it’s further out in one of the outer circles, we have more room and can extend more grace and freedom for differences without haggling over them.*

Option C

All in the family

Read through Titus 3:12-15 and Romans 16:1-16. Focus on the family connections evidenced in these closing sections. Launch a group discussion on the blessings of belonging to the family of God – of really taking ownership and becoming “members one of another.” You could use some of these questions to help get discussion going:

- *How would you characterize your level of connection and belonging to the extended family of God? to this group? Do you see these group as a close knit family? In what ways do you wish the connection were closer? In what ways do you find it a little “too close for comfort”?*
- *What are the blessings of belonging to the family of God? What fears typically keep us from really committing to one another?*



COMMIT (10-15 minutes)

If you haven’t already done so, share what practical steps you will take as a group and individually to put into practice the truths shared during your group discussion time.



SHARE (15-20 minutes)

If this hasn’t happened already, let the group share any prayer needs or praises that they might have, and then go around the room inviting anyone to share any needs the group can minister to through prayer or through practical help. Listen and pray. Conclude with prayer, perhaps with some worship. Sharing some food at this point is always good!