



NOTES – Session 4

“Programming for Spiritual Growth”

Introduction:

1. Your discipleship model is perfectly designed to produce the results you are getting.
 2. Developing a relevant discipleship model begins with embracing an accurate understanding of spiritual maturity.
- I. A spiritually mature person is one who lives as if God is who He says He is and will do all He has promised to do.**
- A. A spiritually mature person is one who has big faith.
 - B. Spiritual development is faith development.

Question: What fuels the development of faith? What are the ingredients that when stirred together, result in greater confidence in the person and promises of God?

II. Five things God uses to grow our faith.

A. Practical _____

1. Faith Factor: When my obedience intersects with God's faithfulness, my faith grows.
2. This is why...
 - We create sermon series around felt needs.
 - We end every message with a specific application, and at times, homework.
 - We have identified a handful of key principles for each age group that we come back to over and over.

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3. Questions:

- Do people know what to do with what you have taught?
- Is your content helpful or just true?

B. Providential _____

1. Faith Factor: When we see God's faithfulness in someone else's life, it is easier to trust Him with ours.
2. We have all seen what happens to people's faith when they get disconnected from the community of faith.
3. This is why...
 - We keep children and students with the same small group leader for several years.
 - Our adult small groups are closed and stay together for up to two years.
 - We don't assign adults to a small group.
4. Questions
 - Does your ministry strategy make it easy for people to connect relationally?
 - Does your programming conflict with the development of relationships?
 - Where does community happen?

C. Private _____

1. Faith Factor: When God speaks to us through His word or answers a specific prayer, or blesses our generosity, our faith is strengthened.

2. This is why...
 - We give children an application card each week.
 - Students do a study every year that emphasizes the importance of personal devotions.
 - We pass out memory verse cards that coincide with our sermon series.
 - Our Starting Point material teaches participants how to read the Bible.
3. Questions
 - Where do you teach people how to read the Bible?
 - When are children and students taught the value of spiritual disciplines?
 - How is this value reinforced in your system?

D. Personal _____

1. Faith Factor: Serving others forces us to be consciously dependent on God, and thus our faith is strengthened.
2. This is why...
 - We encourage participation on a Strategic Service Team.
 - We provide dozens of short-term missions opportunities.
 - We give students an opportunity to volunteer on Sunday mornings through Student Impact.
 - We opt not to host adult small groups on campus on Sunday mornings.
 - We allow unbelievers to serve.
3. Questions
 - Is it easy for members, non-members, and non-believers to serve in your organization?

- What could you do to make it easier and more rewarding?
- Do your teaching environments compete with your service environments?

E. Pivotal _____

1. Faith Factor: Pivotal circumstances test, and therefore strengthen, our confidence in God.
2. Jesus sent his disciples into difficult circumstances to develop their faith.
3. This is why...
 - We show baptism videos in the worship service.
 - We provide mentoring for engaged couples.
 - Our community groups are closed and stay together for up to two years.
 - We keep children and students with the same small group leader for several years.
4. Questions
 - Where do you celebrate stories of faith?
 - Are your people connected relationally in such a way as to insure that someone will be there for them when life becomes less predictable?
 - Where do people go who need someone to help them navigate a crisis?