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# LEADER COMMITMENTS

As a FOCUS leader...

I commit to make my leadership in our community a top priority in my life. This includes core meetings, core preparation, leader meetings, large group meetings, community-wide events, and a lifestyle of evangelism.

I commit to look out for the spiritual well-being of my core members and to make sure each new person gets one-on-one attention.

I commit to have a positive attitude toward the ministry and its members, including the leadership and other individual leaders. I will be direct in dealing with problems and conflict.

I commit to strive to set a Christ-like example for those inside and outside the body. I will lead by influence, striving to be what I call others to be.

I commit to take these commitments seriously, seeking guidance from Christ and from my campus pastors as I work to fulfill them.

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# LIFESTYLE COMMITMENTS

Scripture clearly teaches us that those who are leaders in the Body of Christ must live their lives by a careful standard. None of us are perfect, but we are all called to reflect the Lord Jesus as others follow us (1 Timothy 3:1-10). Paul's exhortation to Timothy to "not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity" is especially applicable for student leaders (1 Timothy 4:12).

The staff also lives by these same standards. How we live not only reflects who we are, but also reflects on our ministry and our Lord. Remember our Lord's words that, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" (Luke 12:48).

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**Growing relationship with God:** As spiritual leaders, it is important for us to keep our personal relationships with God a priority. We will endeavor to nurture lives of prayer, Bible study, confession of sin, and openness to God.

**Dating:** The leadership of FOCUS holds to the scriptural teaching that as believers we should not be yoked together with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14). In other words, if we are in a relationship exploring the possibility of marriage, that person should share our belief in and our commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. Incidentally, this same passage should speak to us about who we choose as our best friends and other close relationships.

**Sexual Purity:** Whether we are in a dating relationship or not, we are called to carefully maintain our sexual purity. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7, we are to avoid all forms of sexual immorality. Paul also admonishes us to abstain from any hint of immorality in Ephesians 5:3. As leaders, we live to set an example for others and must have a reputation that is above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2).

**Alcohol:** Alcohol probably destroys more lives in our country than any other thing. As such, and because so many members of our ministry are underage, we believe alcohol has no place in our campus ministry. As a leader, you commit to not drink at all while on the FOCUS leader team. This covers breaks between semesters as well.

**Academics:** We firmly believe that God has called you here to be students. Therefore, classes, assignments, and exams should be made a priority in the student leader's life with the attitude that it is the Lord Jesus who receives glory as your calling as students is fulfilled (Colossians 3:23).

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## Leading an Effective Discussion

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**Basics:**

1. *Give people time to think. Don't be afraid of a few seconds of silence.*
2. *People must feel safe to state their opinion. Create a safe environment.*
3. *Have a goal. Leaders should know where they are taking people. Every discussion should have an end goal in mind.*

### "Do"s

**Great questions lead to great discussions.** For example: "What are the first four books of the New Testament?" is not discussible--there is only one correct answer. "Why do you think four different gospels are included in the Bible?" is discussible. Thinking of good questions will be your most important task in leading inductive Bible study.

**Minimize leader talk.** The more you talk, the less they will.

**Redirection:** Have several people answer the same question. For example:

*Corefa:* What does Ephesians mean to you?

*Gertrude:* I didn't get anything out of it.

*Corefa:* Hmmmm. Harriet? (Didn't repeat question.)

*Harriet:* Oh, I totally disagree. It has the most lasting truths of our faith.

*Corefa:* (Nods to Beatrice. Doesn't say anything.)

*Beatrice:* Well, it made me realize I wasn't very loving to my brother.

*Corefa:* That's interesting. Did anyone else get a practical application?  
Sylvia?

Leader picked up on last comment to form new question.

Corefa needs to stay in control of discussion, but doesn't have to talk incessantly.

**Prompting:** If you ask a question no one can answer:

Scale the question down or give people some direction. For example:

*Corefa:* How could Isaiah's vision in the temple benefit the modern church?

*Core:* (Blank looks.)

*Corefa:* Isaiah had a vision of God as holy and lifted up. Do you think most Christians today are overwhelmed by God's holiness? How would that change our lives?

**Ask for Clarification.** Have people elaborate on their ideas. For example:

*Corefa:* What can we learn from Abraham's obedience?

*Esmerelda:* Discipline.

*Corefa:* Oh yes, that's good. What can we learn about discipline from Abraham?

**Give Positive Reinforcement.** "Good idea", "excellent", "so true". Frequent smiles or head nods go a long way to encouraging people to feel safe in discussions. But what if someone is totally off the wall? Try to reinforce as much of the answer as possible. For example:

*Corefa:* What does Jesus' death on the cross mean to us?

*Max:* It means we can get drunk every night and cheat on tests because God will forgive us.

*Corefa:* Forgiveness! That really is the key issue when we think of the cross. You sure are right in that. But what do you think our response to God's forgiveness should be? Earlene?

**Call on non-volunteers.** After asking a question, pause and look several people in the eye. This will make them think you are going to call on them. About 50% of the time, call on someone to answer. But ALWAYS give people time to think. Don't say, "Bob, what is your favorite book of the Bible?" Say, "What is your favorite book of the Bible? ...(Pause, look several people in the eye), Bob?"

## "Don't"s

**Don't echo.** Don't repeat people's answers. If they can't be heard, ask them to repeat it.

**Don't answer your own questions.** See prompting above.

**Don't look for one answer.** "That's good, but it's not quite what I'm looking for," will kill a discussion. If you want to make one point, use a lecture or other appropriate method.

**Don't tell people they are wrong.** Try to avoid saying, "You're wrong," or, "I think you made a mistake, Betty Lou." See the example under positive reinforcement for ideas on how to handle this. Don't leave an obvious error unchallenged. Make sure the discussion brings out the right ideas. But you don't have to tell someone in front of a group that they were wrong--they will figure it out.

**Don't let one or two people dominate.** Use redirection and call on non-volunteers to try to handle this situation. "Let's hear from someone who hasn't spoken up yet." If necessary, talk to the dominating person privately. Look for ministry opportunities: why does this person feel the need to talk so much? How can we help them grow in this area?

### **What if we're trying to do everything right and our group still won't discuss?**

- Let people write down ideas first and then call on several volunteers to share what they've written.
- Neighbor nudge: have people discuss questions with person sitting next to them and then bring ideas to the whole group.
- Ask co-corefa or other mature person in group to take notes on how you lead next discussion and give you some pointers.

*Ideas used by permission of Dr. Peter Hovenier, Western Washington University.*

## 6 Week Core Plan

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
<b>God's Word</b>			
<b>Worship &amp; Prayer</b>			
<b>Sharing Lives &amp; Social Interaction</b>			
<b>Mission</b>			
<b>Who Attended &amp; Who Was Missing</b>			
<b>Comments &amp; Reflection</b>			

## 6 Week Core Plan

	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
<b>God's Word</b>			
<b>Worship &amp; Prayer</b>			
<b>Sharing Lives &amp; Social Interaction</b>			
<b>Mission</b>			
<b>Who Attended &amp; Who Was Missing</b>			
<b>Comments &amp; Reflection</b>			

## Core Planning Guide

**What's your goal for core this week? Why?**

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**How will you accomplish the goal?** (You may check more than one option)

- Discussion (small group, walk and talk, article, outside resources, Scripture)
- Worship (prayer, praise, music, art, writing, Lord's supper)
- Service (local community, FOCUS community, within core, campus)
- Meal (purposeful questions or activities)
- Presentation (outside speaker, Ted talk, documentary, other media)
- Events (on campus special events, events that bind cores)
- Evangelism (on campus outreach in pairs, groups, etc.)
- Sharing (testimonies, confession, stories, thoughts)

**Explain your core plan in depth based on the option(s) you chose above:**

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**What are the 5 best questions you can use to help people think about the goal?** (Hint: How would you answer this question?)

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**What Scriptures can you use to help others think through this topic?**

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**How will you encourage your core to give attention to/accomplish this goal moving forward?**

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## Core Planning Guide (Cont.)

*How are you involving other people? Who specifically will do what? What will every individual bring to ensure everyone is actively involved in core?*

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*What ministry items do you need to communicate with your core (e.g. announcements)?*

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*What are you going to do to make your core fun tonight?*

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*What's the actual core structure? How much time will it take? Who is doing what? Use the outline below to script your core.*

Amount of Time:	Activity	Who is Leading?

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## The Vision For Core

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Core isn't just a Bible study or a small group; we've heard that said countless times. It is something more dynamic, a place where people come to seek God, to learn how to serve and not be served, to live life together, to become active members of Christ's body, and to grow in making our lives and hearts reflect Christ.

The way we do that is through these four components:

- **Sharing in Worship & Prayer:** In this component, we're focusing on and responding to Christ directly. Worship and prayer allows people the chance to focus on God's attributes and actions, to bring Him glory and to enjoy His presence with us. Worship is so much more than singing. It is living a life for Him, being devoted to and reflecting on God.
- **Sharing Lives & Social Interaction:** Core should be a place where people can share openly and honestly about their lives. This includes simply being together and growing in friendship through some fun and casual activities. Community is such a blessing, and we believe strongly that it is important for real life change.
- **Sharing in Mission:** It is important that all of us in core together grow an outward heart of mission and service. If we don't, we will become inwardly focused and stagnant. A major vision for these communities is that they would have an impact outside of themselves.
- **Sharing in the Word:** Scripture is where God begins to talk to us; it helps us to see what living for and like Christ means. It shows God's unfailing love and participation with His people, and it is one way we begin to see and experience Him ourselves. Because the Bible speaks, either directly or indirectly, to every area of our lives, the scripture can be integrated into all these areas, not just when we sit down for a Bible study.

With all that said, we want you to write out a vision for your core that encompasses the dynamic nature that these groups provide. Reflect on the four components of core and write a few sentences casting a vision for your core. Think through what you want those components to look like in your core and how you and your co-facilitator plan to fulfill them. Below are a few questions to help you in thinking through your vision. You'll be sharing this with your peer team leader and your core at the beginning of the semester.

1. What are your goals for your core? How do you want your core to impact the lives of the people who attend? (Their relationship with God, with each other, with the people in their lives, etc.)
  - \*Remember that not everyone who attends your core will be a Christian, so the language you use should reflect that (i.e. I want this community to be a safe place where people can seek out God and ask challenging questions).
2. What impact do you want your core to have on the community?
  - \*You may need to think about the community you'll want to be impacting specifically. If you live in the dorms, then you may want to focus on the dorms. You don't need to have a particular community in mind, though. You can wait to see if anyone in your core has a heart for a specific community and leave the vision broader, i.e. 'Our core will be a place where we focus not just on ourselves, but impacting those around us.'

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## *Creative Core Ideas*

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### **Sharing in Worship & Prayer**

In this component, we're focusing on and responding to Christ directly. Worship and Prayer allows people the chance to focus on God's attributes and actions, to bring Him glory and to enjoy His presence with us. Worship is so much more than singing. It is living a life for Him, being devoted to and reflecting on God. It is the core leader's role to model a heart of worship and to facilitate a variety of creative expressions of worship and prayer within the group.

1. It's great to do a discussion and study on worship & prayer first.
2. Read scripture out loud; a Psalm for example. Have people write their own psalm and share.
3. Share testimonies of what went on during the week, how they were saved, or significant times of God's faithfulness in their lives.
4. Group singing with or without guitar, with time open for the gifts of the Spirit to operate.
5. Pray through scripture.
6. Focus on different types of prayer: intercession, petition, confession, thanksgiving.
7. If your group is quiet in prayer, write out prayer needs on small pieces of paper, and have people pray in a circle. Have people pray for the person on their right or left, for specific needs.
8. The week before, assign everyone to come to core with something to share: a song, scripture, an encouragement, whatever God lays on their heart, according to 1 Corinthians 14:26.
9. God is Like...: Gather a number of objects from your home and garage. Here is a list (but it is not exhaustive); be creative and add to it. White out, Ruler, Pen or pencil, Sticky notes, Dictionary, Food strainer, Scissors, Floppy disk, Glue, T.V. remote control. Put them in a basket or on a platter. Pass them around and have each core member pick one. Explain that what they each need to do is tell the group how God is like the item that they chose. For example: "God is like this white out in that he sees all my mistakes and one by one covers them in forgiveness. Those sins are gone forever, as if they never were." After everyone shares what God is like, have a group time of giving thanks to God for those things.
10. Listen to and discuss hymns and/or other worship songs.

### **Sharing in the Word**

Scripture is where God begins to talk to us; it helps us to see what living for and like Christ means. It shows God's unfailing love and participation with His people, and it is one way we begin to see and experience Him ourselves. Because the Bible speaks, either directly or indirectly, to every area of our lives, the scripture can be integrated into all these areas, not just when we sit down for a Bible study. It is the core leader's responsibility to plan out and facilitate a study time with meaningful questions that help people observe and understand the text and that stimulate the group to move beyond the discussion to a place of obedience.

1. Inductive Bible Study is great once you are getting to know people. See the corefa web page for help with writing Inductive study questions.
2. Topical Bible Study – For help to do a topical study properly, see corefa web page.
3. Memorize scripture: Choose a scripture a week to memorize as a core.
4. Develop some discussion questions off of the sermon at the last large group meeting.
5. If you are using a narrative story from scripture, have the core members act it out.
6. Read your text in The Message as well as your usual translation.
7. Instead of having a Bible study, have people share verses that have impacted their lives at different times.
8. Write out scripture. Copy or paraphrase.

## Sharing Lives & Social Interaction

Core should be a place where people can share openly and honestly about their lives. This includes simply being together and growing in friendship through some fun and casual activities. Community is such a blessing, and we believe strongly that it is important for real life change. The core leader should initiate and facilitate experiences both inside and outside of the formal core meeting where all core members can participate and enjoy the spiritual act of just being together and playing together.

1. Plan a dinner, dessert, or fun activity (for core or after the large group meeting) with another core or for the staff
2. Movie nights
3. Slumber parties
4. Scavenger hunts
5. Games (Spoons, Telepictionary, Apples to Apples, Catch Phrase, Skip-bo, Uno, Nertz, etc.)
6. Volleyball
7. Frisbee golf
8. Camping (Many cores have gone camping before, ask around for good camp sites and advice)
9. Bowling
10. Go to a local park
11. Take a DART Trip (Downtown Dallas, Downtown Fort Worth, the Arts District, Mockingbird Station, Downtown Plano, etc.)
12. General Ideas: Share about your past, present, and future. Past – where you came from, family relationships, good times & hard times, childhood dreams, significant people, religious story. Present – Where you are now, your major, job, hobbies, what concerns you, bugs you, what you do for fun, what keeps you up at night, where you are with faith in God, how you're growing spiritually now. Future – Where you'd like to be in five years, something fun or scary you'd like to try, what God is saying to you.
13. Third Person Introduction – Have each person introduce themselves to the group based on how they think their best friend would introduce them (or their mom or their childhood baby-sitter).
14. Getting Acquainted – Great for a first core or a larger group activity. Find people to sign their name next to each category. Category examples: Find someone who: Uses Listerine, Is Vegetarian, Plays Guitar, Can Wiggle their Ears, Uses Your Brand of Toothpaste, Can Recite Books of the New Testament, Played Sports in School, Writes Poetry, Born in a Foreign Country, Never Changed a Tire, Been to Three Different Countries, Has Been Snowboarding, Became a Christian in High School.
15. M&M Sharing – Each person takes an M&M. After that you tell them that each color represents a topic (you decide the topics; Ex: blue – Family, red – Junior High story). They each share something about their lives from the topic for their color of M&M.
16. Family Dinner Table - Have people describe their family relationships by drawing their dinner table. Where they choose to place them around the table should reflect how close the family members are to one another.
17. Journey Drawing – Have each person draw their spiritual journey and then share with the group (this takes a long time unless you really limit it).
18. "I Never" Game – Arrange chairs in a circle, one less than your number of people. The person without a chair stands in middle and thinks of something they've never done that they think everyone else has done (like, "I've never had braces"). Those who have done it have to get up from their chair and sit down in another one while the person from the middle tries to get a seat themselves. The person who ends up without a chair is now in the middle (if can't use chairs, use fingers to keep track of the things you have done. The first person with 5 or 10 fingers up first is out).
19. Who Is It? – Get in pairs or threes. One person from the first team shares one sentence about their life that nobody would know about, but that is true, like "I broke my leg in the third grade." The other team member(s) repeats the same sentence saying, "I also broke my leg in the third grade."

The other groups ask one question each, having every person who told the story answer it, like "How long was your cast on?" or "What happened?" Each group then gets to guess who is lying and who is telling the truth.

20. Book of Questions – (Need a book of questions for this): Have one person pick a number of a question to answer. The person holding the book then reads them that question. Pass the book around the circle.
21. My Very Own Obituary – If you can get over being freaked out, this is actually an excellent activity to think about matters in life. Give the group or person time to write out their obituary. The person determines when they die, who they are, what is said about them, etc. From this it is easy to discuss the values, dreams and/or expectations that the person has about life.
22. Human Trivial Pursuit – Divide group into 2 teams. People who know each other should be on same team. Every person gets 6 small papers and a pen. On the papers they write one fact about themselves that has to do with each of the 6 trivial pursuit categories, which are: Geography, History, Entertainment, Art & Literature, Science & Nature, Sports & Leisure. Each team combines and mixes its own papers and reads one aloud. The other team together tries to figure out who the fact is about. Teams alternate turns and get one point for every right guess.
23. Have a testimony time at the beginning of core to share what God did in their lives that week or what they discovered about Him.
24. Who Am I? – Make a list of eight items which identify who you are or which identify significant aspects and roles of your life (examples: son, friend, helper, writer, critic...). Then rank the items according to the importance the role has to you at this point in your life. Share results in pairs and share how you came to your decisions. Re-gather as a group and share top roles. Then ask, what surprised you about this activity? Did you realize anything new?
25. A Penny for your Thoughts - On an index card, have each person write three "yes or no" questions they might ask someone in the group. Ex: "Did you grow up in Wyoming?" "Do you like Dr. Pepper?" "Do you have any brothers?" (Don't give them the rest of the instructions until they have written their questions). Then give each person three pennies, and explain that the object of the game is to gather as many pennies as possible in the time allotted. They need to find as many people as possible who can answer "yes" to their questions. For each "yes" answer they get, they take a penny from the person answering. Give them seven to ten minutes, depending on the size of your group.

### Sharing in Mission

It is important that all of us in core together grow an outward heart of mission and service. If we don't, we will become inwardly focused and stagnant. A major vision for these communities is that they would have an impact outside of themselves. The core facilitator should suggest and encourage campus or community service projects as well as ways for the group to be active in their witness for Christ.

1. Adopt a child through World Vision or another organization with the rest of core: pray, write letters, and encourage regularly.
2. Organize an outreach event in your dorm or area of campus.
3. Bring the newspaper to core or your one-on-one and pray over the events.
4. Work in a soup kitchen or homeless assistance center (Seeds of Change, Our Daily Bread, Salvation Army).
5. Volunteer at a senior living center game or social night.
6. Volunteer at Buckner International for "Adopt an Angel" or other opportunities (ask staff for contact)
7. Talk to your campus staff for organizations your campus may have a history with.

## *Ice Breaker Bank*

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Here are some good icebreakers to start your core with so that people can get comfortable with the people in your group and have some fun!

Do not feel limited to this list. There are many, many more, but these are games that have been used by our corefas in the past, and they get people laughing and having fun while also helping people get to know one another! There are also a lot in the SICM binder and plenty on the internet. Remember that with all the ideas you find, you can adapt as necessary! These activities work best when they tie into your topic for the night in some way.

If you're unsure or looking for better ideas, talk to your peer team leader!

Have an ice cream bar as your snack and then the toppings correspond to things you share about yourself! For example, everyone who put chocolate sprinkles on their ice cream tells the group about their favorite family vacation. For every topping you got, you share the appropriate thing.

Literally break some ice together! Freeze some water in a large container to create a big block of ice. Have people chip away at the ice as they talk about themselves. You may also freeze some little toys, coins, figurines, etc. into the ice block and they have to "free" one of those items. They have to talk about themselves until the item is free!

Question ball: Type out about 20 or 30 get-to-know-you questions and tape them all over a beach ball. One person passes the ball to another and whatever question their thumb lands on, they answer that question, then toss the ball (check out questions in the corefa manual for ideas).

2 truths and a lie: Everyone tells three facts about themselves, one of which is a lie. Everyone has to guess which is the lie.

"Get-to-know-you Jenga": Write get-to-know-you questions on jenga blocks and they answer the question on the block they pull out. Just use normal Jenga rules other than that.

The human knot: Have everyone stand in a circle and join hands with two different people across from them (not standing next to them) so that everyone is connected. They then try to move around, over, above, through other people to get to an untangled circle without breaking the circle at any point.

Question cup: have everybody write a fun question & a deeper question on two pieces of paper, and drop them in a cup. Take turns drawing, and either have everyone answer the question that was drawn, or have that person answer and return the question to the cup. Continue for a certain amount of time.

"God is like...": You start with a bunch of random objects (stapler, cup, fork, shoe, soap, book, TV remote, whatever random things you can find in your house) and tell everyone to take one object. Then, you tell them to explain why God is like the object they selected. It can be pretty silly or serious depending on how thoughtful your people are. This is for a spiritual get to know you, perhaps two or three cores in.

## *Ice Breaker Bank (Cont.)*

**Life boxes:** Take a sheet of paper and fold it in half and then in half again. Unfold and you have 4 boxes. Have markers or crayons available and have people write the following headings in the 4 boxes: 1) Childhood 2) High school 3) Present 4) Future. In each of the boxes they are to draw a simple picture that represents an event or action that was extremely important to that particular time of their life. Have people go around and share their experiences.

**Lightning round:** come up with a question or two that are either silly and quirky or a little deeper. Have everyone answer in 30 seconds to a minute each (that's why it's a lightning round!). Bonus points if the question somehow ties into your topic for the day!

**Elimination-style King Elephant:** This is a bit of a spin on traditional King Elephant. In this version, your animal remains your animal for the duration of the game. If you mess up, you're eliminated (rather than moving to the end and shifting). This way, if people come late you can just add them in, and there is confusion as to which animals are still in play, which makes it fun and different!

These are just a few tested ideas, but you have a ton of resources at your disposal! You have your campus staff, veteran corefas, and Google!! Just remember, Google has never been a corefa, so it is more a consultant that you use to get you thinking than a dictator that you follow to the letter. Adapt as necessary and have fun! These are neat ways to play together and get to know your core members!!

### **12 of the Best Icebreaker Questions**

*Questions that "encourage some level of self reflection":*

- What is something that you recently discovered that you are excited about?
- What is something you know really well?
- What are your hopes for what the future holds for you?
- What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?

*Questions that are "fun and light":*

- What is the strangest thing you used to believe as a child?
- What is one of your favorite topics of conversation?
- What is something that amazes you?
- What made you smile in the last two weeks?

*Questions that are "a bit deeper":*

- How did you learn your most important lesson in life?
- What would you do differently if nobody would judge you?
- If you could give one piece of advice to a large group of people, what would it be?
- What is one thing you want to accomplish in your lifetime?

*April 12, 2018 | by Chad Littlefield*

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## *Why do we teach **FOCUS** on Jesus?*

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Jesus knew the scriptures. He referred to them to defend against Satan's attacks and to attack lies about the Father. He used them to help people understand God and to explain what God expected from his children. He employed them to reinterpret dry, unspiritual tradition and to teach people how to treat others. He quoted them to remind people of their purpose and of his. Jesus studied the scriptures enough to where he knew how to use them appropriately, in contrast to some of the Pharisees who studied the scriptures but missed the point entirely (John 5:37-40). In order to live fruitful lives as followers of Christ we must know the scripture. While we are fortunate to have access to a multitude of bibles, many of us are ignorant to many of the deeper truths about God's word, especially those truths that come from the Spirit's guidance, along with experience, as opposed to those forced into our memory from years of Sunday school. Many of us have simply missed the point or are still missing the point in certain areas.

As a community we believe we must purposefully and passionately delve into the scriptures through the lens of Christ to understand who we are and what we must be about in order to advance the kingdom of God. The scripture isn't God, but it is one of the best tools we have to find Christ. We try our best to offer everyone who comes into our community the opportunity to study FOJ, which is nothing more than a thematically organized collection of scripture. That means it is not some institutional interpretation of scripture or a scholar's analysis; it is simply a topical list of verse references.

We teach one on one because that's how members of our society learn about themselves the best. Even in Jesus' day where community learning was an effective method of teaching you still see him single out a variety of people to teach them some truth or challenge them on their way of life, to encourage them in their faith and give them hope for the future. However, in our society at this time, group learning is, at best, a mediocre approach to teaching. Many of us need to hear lessons one on one to really understand the lesson in light of our own life, i.e., our thinking, behavior, feelings, attitudes. Because after all, the point of scripture is not simply knowledge, it's becoming like Christ. If you know a lot, a lot is expected of you. I hear far too often students critiquing this study as being too basic. But when I look at their lives and observe that many of them haven't begun to apply these 'basic' truths, I am reminded of what the author of Hebrews says, "though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again."

The point of this study then is to become more like Christ. What's more, it is to be able to teach other people how to find and follow Christ. That's it. All the other stuff is secondary at best. This study gives you the ability to examine what you really believe and test its impact on the way you live. It gives you the opportunity to develop a spiritual friendship with another person centered on Jesus. This study is for people who are coming to Christ for the first time or the seventy-seventh. It is for people who were raised in church or who haven't ever been. It's for seekers and followers, for the weak and the mature. But in order for this study to impact you, you must be teachable, willing to take a close look at your own life, and most importantly, willing to focus on Jesus.

To summarize, FOJ is for everyone that comes to FOCUS:

- If people are looking for friends, there's not a better way to build a close, spiritual friendship.
- If people come without knowledge of Christ and are looking to learn, FOJ offers a great overview of our faith and it's revolutionary impact on our lives.
- If people need to examine their own faith and figure out what they really believe and why, it facilitates that.
- If the next step for them is to learn how to bring someone else to Christ, FOJ is a great tool for that, and going through the study themselves will equip them to teach it one day.

Brad Davis  
Denton North Church Minister

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## *Creative One-on-One Ideas*

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1. Draw your spiritual journeys, including highs and lows, key people and places. Share with each other.
2. Do conversational outreach with each other somewhere around campus.
3. Do a prayer walk through part of campus.
4. Plan a fun event together for some people in your core.
5. Hang out with them in their dorm or apartment and look through yearbooks, photo albums, etc.
6. Volunteer together at a local non-profit organization.
7. Practice encouragement together and write a note to someone in core or in the fellowship.
8. Each of you write a personal mission statement. Share and discuss.
9. Clean out your closets together and donate the stuff.
10. Go to a park or out for a drive.
11. Talk about recent sermons.
12. If they share how a sermon they heard really ministered to them, take time to write the speaker a note of affirmation and appreciation.
13. Bake a treat together to take to core that week.
14. Pray for missionaries and pastors that you mutually know.
15. Play pool, tennis, racquetball, Scrabble, etc.
16. Teach a new style of Bible study and practice it.
17. Pick up the latest copy of a newspaper and pray over current events.
18. Read 1 Tim. 2:1-5, James 5:13-16, and 1 Thess. 5:16-18. Pray about anything and everything. Make sure to pray for those in authority.
19. Go outdoors and read Psalm 19 together. Point out how different things you see in creation "pour forth speech".
20. Read a psalm or two together, then each of you write your own and share. You could even try writing a psalm together.
21. Play a round of frisbee golf. You can bring up a topic of your choice while you play.
22. Take a walk together. If it's rainy, go to a local mall and walk around.
23. Go watch a campus sporting event together. Make a point to ask good questions during the game.
24. Spend time praying for the other people in your core.

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## *39 Questions to Know About a Person in Your Small Group*

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1. Where are they from?
2. What is their church background? Was it a positive or negative experience?
3. How and when did they become a Christian?
4. What does being a Christian mean to them now? How would they define what it means to be a Christian?
5. What's their life of devotion to Jesus like (worship life, prayer, Bible study, etc.)?
6. Why did they come to college?
7. What do they hope to do after college, and why do they want to do that?
8. Are they a giver? How is this shown? What does that tell you about the person?
9. What are they passionate about? What gets them stirred up and serving?
10. What has their experience with the Spirit been? What is their attitude and experience toward the gifts of the Spirit?
11. Who is their hero and why?
12. Have they ever prayed out loud in a group meeting? What about praying out loud for another person one-on-one?
13. Have they ever shared their testimony or given a word of encouragement to another person, to their core, or at the large group meeting?
14. What would they most want Jesus to do in their lives personally?
15. Have they ever shared their faith in Jesus with another person? When was the last time?
16. Do they have any non-Christian friends? Do they pray for them?
17. If yes, what do they pray about? Do they invite them to large group, Core, Church, or other places they might hear the Gospel?
18. If they could receive any fruit of the Spirit, which one would they ask for first? Why?
19. If they could receive any gift of the Spirit, which one would they ask for first? Why?
20. Who would they like to be ten years from now? Why?
21. What needs to take place in their lives for #20 to happen?

22. How are they doing in school? What is their GPA?
23. Are they teachable?
24. Are they confessional?
25. Do they hunger to be like Jesus and to live radically for God?
26. Do they get along with others? Why or why not?
27. What kinds of people bug them?
28. Whom do they ignore and why?
29. Do they initiate spiritual ministry and care in Core? In what ways?
30. Why are they in a small group? Why did they start and where have they stayed?
31. Why are they a part of FOCUS? What drew them and why have they stayed? What does this tell you about them?
32. What is their emotional temperament like? Is this a benefit or danger to their spiritual well-being? How so?
33. Do they sacrifice themselves (risk themselves) for the sake of others or for the sake of the group? If yes, how is this shown?
34. List six specific areas of their life where you think Jesus would want to deepen them.
35. For each area in #34, list one or two ways you can help that experience of deepening occur.
36. What are their three greatest personality and character strengths?
37. Are they sought out by others? For what kinds of reasons?
38. How would they answer the question "What would Jesus say about your relationship to Him presently?"
39. Do they want to learn how to mentor others by leading a Core group? Do you think they should? Why?

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## *Spiritual Friendship Questions*

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- Name two people, other than your parents, who have really influenced your life, and tell how.
- What do you like to do with your friends? What do you like to do with your free time?
- If you were to take a vacation with a friend, who would you go with, where would you go, and what would you do?
- What is one quality you really like about yourself and why?
- What are two things you find have the most meaning for you in life? Why?
- If you were confined to a bed for a month and could have anyone other than Jesus visit you from history that month to talk, who would it be and why?
- Who are you closest to in your family and why?
- If you knew you could not fail, what are two things that you would like to do or accomplish within the next ten years?
- What three adjectives best describe your last week?
- What is the purpose of your life at this time? Do you feel like this purpose is being realized? Why or why not?
- What helps or encourages you in your faith?
- If you could ask Jesus any one question about yourself and know He would answer completely and clearly, what would it be?
- What causes the most problems, conflicts, etc., in your family?
- What areas of your life give you the most problems?
- What is one quality in your Christian life you want to grow in within the next five years?
- If you had to describe one frustration you have had with this group, what would it be?
- Where is it easiest for you to find God?
- Talk about pictures of God. What single words, images, or metaphors about God are most meaningful to you? What images or pictures do you find difficult, or are barriers for you? How does imagery affect your spiritual life?
- Consider the Christian community. How does being in the church impact your life in God? What experiences of meaningful community do you have? What are your needs and hopes in this area?
- What has been a pit experience in your life? In detail, describe how God worked through that experience. What crowns did God give you in that experience?
- What three words would you use to describe your life before you were a Christian? What three words would you use to describe your life after you became a Christian? Why the change?

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## *More Questions for Developing a Spiritual Friendship*

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*Below is another list of questions and ideas for helping you build a more substantial understanding of a person whom you are getting to know.*

1. Begin by sharing some of your spiritual history--your autobiography. What have been the high places and low places in your personal spiritual journey? Share one specific memory of feeling close to God, and one specific period when you felt distance from God.
2. Talk about the present. How do you feel about your relationship to God at the present time? What spiritual disciplines do you practice? What are the strengths and weaknesses in your personal use of spiritual disciplines? Where would you like to "go" in this area? What can help you? What hinders you?
3. Talk about prayer. What is the place and meaning of prayer in your life? Where is it easy and where is it hard? What kinds of prayer are you involved with? Where do you want to learn or grow in your prayer life?
4. Consider your key relationships. Are you able to pray and share spiritually with your close friends? If you're married, are you able to pray and share spiritually with your spouse? Why or why not? If you have children, are you spiritually close with them? What are your deepest desires in your marriage and family? How is it coming? Do you have any key relationships that need healing or forgiveness?
5. What helps or encourages you in faith? What hinders you in your desire to know and follow God?
6. How do you handle suffering and hurt in your life? Who is God for you in such places?
7. Talk about the future. What are your goals for yourself in spirituality? How are you going to move toward those goals?

Consider:

1. The importance of praying for and with your spiritual friend.
2. The use of a brief passage of Scripture as a means of centering your time together.
3. The toleration of silence if it includes a responsiveness to each other and the Spirit of God in your midst.
4. The possibility of brief "assignments" for study, reading or reflection before the next meeting.

Roberta Hestenes 10/86, see also *Using the Bible in Groups*, Westminster Press, 1983, pp. 102-106

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## Asking Good Questions

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### **5 Principles of Good Questions**

#### ***1. Keep questions open-ended. Beware of yes/no and one-word answers.***

*Good questions:* What is your church background? Tell me about your friendships outside of the Christian community. Where does body stewardship fall in your list of priorities?

*Bad questions:* Did you grow up in church? Do you have non-Christian friends? Is body stewardship a priority in your life?

#### ***2. Keep questions in the spirit of the text. Make sure they focus on the passage.***

*Good question:* What does it look like to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice?

*Bad question:* How can we make sure that we are offering our bodies as a living sacrifice and eating right, getting enough exercise, sleeping enough, etc.?

#### ***3. Keep questions clear, simple and concise.***

*Good question:* Do our current priorities reflect an attitude of worship to God?

*Bad question:* How do our earlier answers about what we spend a lot of our time/energy thinking and worrying about tell us about our personal worship?

#### ***4. Ask questions that encourage vulnerability and lead to sharing lives.***

*Good questions:* Based on the passage, what role should the Spirit play in our lives? How does he play this role in your life?

*Bad questions:* What are some theological questions you have regarding how the Spirit works in the life of a disciple? Do you think we will ever understand these?

#### ***5. Don't lead people to answer based on your opinions and assumptions.***

*Good questions:* What do you think it means to love God? How have you tried to love God in your daily life?

*Bad questions:* Don't you think that loving God means never turning down an opportunity to give someone money? Are there things you do that show God you don't really love him?

### ***Practice***

Read John 13:1-20. Create a list of 5 good questions about the passage based on the 5 principles.

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## *“Four Types of Questions to Ask Your Spiritual Mentor”*

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Have conversations with your mentor gotten a bit repetitive lately?

Perhaps you approached someone you admire, and bravely asked that person to become your mentor. And they said “yes!” But a year into the relationship, those monthly mentoring conversations don’t seem to invigorate you like they used to, and aren’t quite as energizing for them, either.

In short, you suspect the mentorship may have run its course. The fact is, sometimes it’s not the relationship that’s stale – you just need some fresh material to discuss. So why not re-invigorate those mentoring sessions by preparing a thoughtful, diverse slate of questions ahead of time.

Here are four types of questions to prepare ahead of every mentoring conversation that will keep things interesting – and valuable – for you and your mentor:

### **I Stories**

Hey, everybody likes to talk about themselves! Ask your mentor to tell a story from his or her own career. For example, you could ask, “How did you get to where you are today?” or “Was there a time you messed up and felt like you’d failed? What did you do to recover?” or “What do you wish you had known before your first management role?”

### **II Situations**

Bring a situation to your mentor. One that you’d like help navigating. For example, “I tried to delegate a task last week and it did not go as well as I’d expected. Can you help me think through what to do differently next time?” or “I have these two very different career path options and would like your help making a decision” or “How can I let my boss know that I don’t need to be micromanaged?”

### **III Self-awareness**

One of the greatest gifts you can give yourself is the gift of self-awareness, meaning the ability to see yourself as others perceive you. That way, if you like how you’re perceived, you can embrace it and take steps to strengthen that positive perception. If you don’t like how you are currently perceived, you can take steps to change that perception to a more positive one. Your mentor can help by “holding up the mirror” and giving you feedback on how your actions and communication are impacting the way others see you. Ask a question, such as, “When I presented in that meeting last week, how did I do?” or “Could you give me feedback on ways to improve my leadership presence?” or “Am I coming across as high-maintenance when I send my boss weekly status updates?”

## *“Four Types of Questions to Ask Your Spiritual Mentor” (Cont.)*

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### **IV Skill-building**

Is there a skill you’re currently working to enhance, such as project management, long-term strategic planning, delegating, or public speaking? Ask your mentor for advice and resources that will help you polish that skill.

### **The Takeaway**

By preparing a new variation of each one of these four questions before every mentoring conversation, you can all but guarantee that you’ll have interesting conversations for years to come.

Conversely, if you share this list with those that you mentor and encourage them to prep ahead of time, you need never sit through another mentoring conversation wondering if the other person is finding this useful!

*Jan 18, 2016 | by Jo Miller*

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# Qualities of a Spiritual Leader: Guide

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The following sheet is meant to aid you in befriending and mentoring people in a one-on-one setting. It is also meant to help you develop purposefulness in growing and developing the people you spend time with. Too often our one-on-one time with people is undirected and incomplete. This sheet takes a number of qualities of Christian life and helps you purposefully think through areas of strength and areas needing improvement in the people you spend time with.

There are numerous qualities on this list that require you digging deep with people. Our society is one of superficiality; this is just the opposite. While it may be uncomfortable for them or you, be aware that talking through these things with one another is a healthy way to grow in right relationship with God and people. Leave no stone unturned!

Practically, you or your co-leader should go over this sheet with your staff mentor for every person in your core. You should bring up each quality with the people you get with to get a better idea of where they are (you don't need to use this sheet with them, but rather use the qualities as a guide for your questions). You also may be asked by your staff mentor to rate yourself and your co-leader.

The reason for this sheet is twofold: so we can stimulate development and growth in our community at the individual level, and so that we can assess possible leaders for the coming year. So be observant and ask the people you spend time with lots of questions. There's no way to know where they are if you haven't observed and asked.

At the bottom is the key for identifying where the people are regarding these qualities. It's necessary to mention that we aren't "rating" people so that we can determine who's the best, or shame people for not being far along. We are all equal before the cross, all in need of Christ. We use this sheet as a way to minister to people and help them grow, and we can't do that without knowing where they really are.

# Qualities of a Spiritual Leader

<b>Core Member:</b>														
<i>Areas to observe early on with people in your circle of ministry:</i>														
<b>Loves Jesus</b> - real relationship with the Lord, active devotional life, prayer life.														
<b>Loves God's Word and the Truth</b> - reads and loves scripture, seeks truth over biases, not satisfied with easy answers.														
<b>Heart for People and the World</b> - seeks to know other people before being known, consistently involved in outreach, shows respect and care for all different kinds of people groups.														
<b>Consistency</b> - is reliable, trustworthy, isn't prone to drastic changes in attitude/outlook.														
<b>Humble and Teachable</b> - willing to listen, responds to truth, submissive. Seeks and follows through on advice from reliable sources. Attitude of a learner, active listener in conversation.														
<b>Servant Minded</b> - looks for opportunities to serve others, willing and dependable with responsibility. Puts others' needs before their own, shows care for the whole group rather than just self.														
<b>Purposeful</b> - makes goals and follows through, has purposeful relationships, isn't lazy, keeps a schedule, looks for opportunities to take initiative.														
<b>Fool for God</b> - seeks acceptance from God over people, unashamed of their relationship with Jesus, not worldly or interested in being seen as "cool".														
<b>Priorities</b> - seeks to let Jesus shape priorities between church, school, community, family, work, etc.														
<b>Living in the Light</b> - transparent, vulnerable and honest, committed to openness in all areas of their life.														
<i>Areas to ask about and discuss as you get to know the person more:</i>														
<b>Relationship with the Holy Spirit</b> - tries to experience the Spirit and hear from him, led by the Spirit, understands Spirit's role in our lives.														
<b>Good Friend to People</b> - understands how to be a good friend and follows through, has healthy and thriving relationships with people, empathetic, inclusive to all types of people.														
<b>Serious About Sin</b> - shows Godly sorrow at sin. Seeks accountability, actively confessing sin and repenting.														
<b>Sexual Purity</b> - committed to pure dating relationships, making real progress in personal sexual struggles (their goal is not a hint of sexual immorality).														
<b>Academics</b> - reflects Christ to classmates and professors, doing well in classes, both they and their parents are happy with their grades.														
<b>Bold</b> - speaks and acts boldly, asks bold questions, doesn't avoid confrontation, knows how to speak truth appropriately.														
<b>Stewardship of Money</b> - generous, gives money, not materialistic, not selfish with possessions, keeps a budget.														
<b>Stewardship of their Body</b> - healthy eating, sleeping, relationship with alcohol, hygiene, exercise, body image.														
<b>Modesty</b> - is not seeking attention, appropriate in humor, is not disruptive. Dresses appropriately. Humble in speech and attitude.														
<b>Social Media</b> - has healthy relationship with social media. Doesn't seek validation/attention, doesn't post inflammatory/inappropriate content, doesn't spend too much time on it.														
<b>Entertainment</b> - healthy entertainment usage, limits time spent watching tv/playing video games.														
<b>Active Learner</b> - seeks to learn, reads, critical thinker, inquisitive, asks good questions.														
<b>Key:</b>	<b>?: You have made no observations or are unsure</b> - You haven't asked them about this area or seen enough/any examples													
	<b>UA: Unaware of need to grow</b> - This is something you or your co-fa have observed, but they haven't been talked to about it. (Blind Spot)													
	<b>UW: Unwilling to grow or make changes</b> - You or your co-fa have had conversation(s) to encourage them to grow in this area, they either disagreed or have shown little to no signs of change.													
	<b>GE: Great example to others</b> - Someone we would point to in our community as an example of excellence in this area.													
<b>AG: Aware of need and actively growing</b> - making obvious and consistent efforts to grow in this area.														

## Ideal Time Picture Instructions

1. This is designed to be a look at an ideal week in your life. Chances are, this week will never exist (so don't put in appointments that are for this week only, etc.)
2. Start by putting all of your classes and meetings with multiple people (like FOCUS) into the grid. Make sure to allow for travel time to and from.
3. Add in your work schedule, if applicable.
4. Add in time for sleeping. In an ideal week, what time would you go to bed? What time would you get up? Be realistic or this tool won't help much.
5. Add in your 1-on-1 meetings.
6. Now find times for you to work on your "To do" list. How much time will you need for homework and studying in the average week? How much to complete other tasks? Look for ways to convert travel time into task time. For example, if you have two classes an hour apart, you could walk to your apartment and back and have thirty free minutes, or you could find a place to study on campus and get an hour of homework done (or make phone calls, catch up on sleep, set up a meeting with someone from your core, go to the student union to meet new people, etc.)
7. Now find times for you to be alone with God in prayer, study, and worship.
8. Make sure to note times that you will want to open for free time every week (like Saturday nights). Add in times to work out if you want.

If you spent 8 hours a day, 7 days a week sleeping or resting;  
 If you spent 3 hours a day, 7 days a week eating and socializing;  
 If you spent 1 hour a day, 7 days a week exercising;  
 If you spent 1 hour a day, 7 days a week in personal prep (shower, etc.)  
 If you spent 30 hours a week in studies  
 (15 credits hours plus an extra hour to study per credit);  
 And if you spent 15 hours a week working to make money;

**...you would still have 32 hours each week of unaccounted non-sleeping time available to you!!**

### **Galatians 6:10**

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

### **Ephesians 5:15-17**

Be very careful, then, how you live -- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

### **Colossians 4:5**

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

### **Personal Schedule Worksheet**

*Fill one of these out each semester to plan your time and see the openings in your schedule. You can also make copies to use with students you are mentoring.*

## Personal Schedule Worksheet

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
8am							
9am							
10am							
11am							
12pm						-	
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
7pm							
8pm							
9pm							
10pm							
11pm							

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## Leadership Axioms

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### Beginning the Year Axioms (August)

1. The dullest \_\_\_\_\_ is sharper than the sharpest \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to remembering things.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ is how it's done.

3. Ask the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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4. A disciple too lazy to \_\_\_\_\_ in the fall has nothing to \_\_\_\_\_ in the spring.

5. Be a \_\_\_\_\_ for God, not \_\_\_\_\_ for God.

6. Seek first to \_\_\_\_\_, then to be \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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7. What done \_\_\_\_\_ looks like.

8. Be \_\_\_\_\_ with what you are given.

9. Move your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to each other.

## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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10. Moving people onto God's \_\_\_\_\_.

11. On-\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ for a leader.

12. Look to see where God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

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## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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### Fall Semester Axioms

1. Think \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Use your \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ skills.

3. If you mess up, \_\_\_\_\_ me. If you mess up bad, \_\_\_\_\_ me  
\_\_\_\_\_!

## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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4. It's not hard to be most people's best \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Values need \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Let's \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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7. Teach the \_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Be their biggest \_\_\_\_\_ (not their biggest \_\_\_\_\_).

9. One-word \_\_\_\_\_.

## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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10. You can always say \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, but you can't take back anything you've already \_\_\_\_\_.

11. If you aren't having fun doing \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, you're probably doing something \_\_\_\_\_.

12. Do what you can \_\_\_\_\_ and then go to \_\_\_\_\_ at night.

## **Leadership Axioms (cont.)**

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13. Your greatest \_\_\_\_\_ is your greatest \_\_\_\_\_.

14. \_\_\_\_\_ is the friend of the adult learner.

## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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### Spring Semester Axioms

1. \_\_\_\_\_ matters.

2. Don't take other \_\_\_\_\_'s stuff \_\_\_\_\_.

3. I accept \_\_\_\_\_ as I am and I \_\_\_\_\_; I accept  
\_\_\_\_\_ as they are and they \_\_\_\_\_.

## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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4. Leaders are \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The best \_\_\_\_\_ are still out there.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ well.

## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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7. \_\_\_\_\_ people \_\_\_\_\_ people.

8. Doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_.

9. We don't do \_\_\_\_\_.

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## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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### Axioms for the Whole Community

1. Your \_\_\_\_\_ can become your ministry.

2. Comparisons are \_\_\_\_\_.

3. It's always the \_\_\_\_\_ time to do the \_\_\_\_\_ thing.

## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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4. It's possible to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Your emotions are \_\_\_\_\_ but that doesn't mean they're connected to \_\_\_\_\_.

6. " \_\_\_\_\_ " never goes without saying.

## Leadership Axioms (cont.)

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7. We rarely \_\_\_\_\_ when we're \_\_\_\_\_.

8. \_\_\_\_\_ vs. \_\_\_\_\_.

## Leadership Axioms Key

### Beginning the Year Axioms (August)

1. The dullest **pencil** is sharper than the sharpest **mind** when it comes to remembering things.
2. **One** on **one** is how it's done.
3. Ask the **question**.
4. A disciple too lazy to **plant** in the fall has nothing to **harvest** in the spring.
5. Be a **fool** for God, not **cool** for God.
6. Seek first to **understand**, then to be **understood**.
7. What done **right** looks like.
8. Be **faithful** with what you are given.
9. Move your **feet** and **talk** to each other.
10. Moving people onto God's **agenda**.
11. On-**time** is **late** for a leader.
12. Look to see where God is **working** and **join** Him.

### Fall Semester Axioms

1. Think **pastorally**.
2. Use your **problem solving** skills.
3. If you mess up, **tell** me. If you mess up bad, **tell me fast!**
4. It's not hard to be most people's best **friend**.
5. Values need **heat**.
6. Let's **debrief**.
7. Teach the **person**, not the **lesson**.
8. Be their biggest **fan** (not their biggest **critic**).
9. One-word **goals**.
10. You can always say **more, louder, later**, but you can't take back anything you've already **said**.
11. If you aren't having fun doing **campus ministry**, you're probably doing something **wrong**.
12. Do what you can **do** and then go to **bed** at night.
13. Your greatest **strength** is your greatest **weakness**.
14. **Repetition** is the friend of the adult learner.

### Spring Semester Axioms

1. **Language** matters.
2. Don't take other **people's** stuff **personally**.
3. I accept **myself** as I am and I **change**; I accept **others** as they are and they **change**.
4. Leaders are **readers**.
5. The best **ideas** are still out there.
6. **Finish** well.
7. **Humble** people **honor** people.
8. Doctrine of **inclusion**.
9. We don't do **normal**.

### Axioms for the Whole Community

1. Your **misery** can become your ministry.
2. Comparisons are **odious**.
3. It's always the right **time** to do the **right** thing.
4. It's possible to be **Biblical** and **wrong**.
5. Your emotions are **real**, but that doesn't mean they're connected to **reality**.
6. "**Thank you**" never goes without saying.
7. We rarely **grow** when we're **comfortable**.
8. **Base hits** vs. **home runs**.

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## Online Resources

***Go to anyfocus.org and check out the Corefa resources under the “Resources” tab for information about the following topics and more. Be sure to check back as resources are continually updated through the semesters. Here are just a few of the helpful resources:***

*- Core Helps*

- Vulnerability*
- Body Stewardship*
- Outreach*
- Holy Spirit*
- Baptism Guide*
- Worship*
- Renewing Your Mind*
- Core Planning Guide*
- Conversations & Asking Questions*

*- Articles*

- Rethinking Dating*
- The Power of Promising*
- Thankful Exchange*
- Sabbath as Praying and Playing*

*- Videos*

- The Power of Vulnerability: A TED Talk by Brené Brown*
- Listening to Shame: A TED Talk by Brené Brown*

*- Continuing Education Booklist*

*- The Bible Project*