
The Vision For Core

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 coach 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.'

On the next few pages, we have laid out the first 3 cores. The goal of these cores is to cast a vision for what "life to the full" is--with God, personally, and with others. These initial weeks will therefore focus on key aspects of our shared lives as disciples: (1) Full Friendship, (2) Full Connection in Community, and (3) Fulfillment in Life. Be sure to read through the entire plan with your co-fa and to prepare your answers to some of the questions as a model for the type, depth, and length of answer you would hope to hear from core members.