

Gospel of John 1-4

Community Groups Term Planner

James Stinson | 22.01.2015

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

– **Proverbs 21:5**

This term planner is designed to help Community Group Leaders at Vine Church to prepare, plan, and pray for an upcoming Term. In this module, Leaders will go through the following elements:

- Reminder of Leadership
- Plan for Vine Churches Growth: Upcoming Series
- Planning the Leaders Growth
- Planning the Groups Growth

Purpose of Leadership

At the beginning of every term, we wish to remind the Leaders of Vine Church what biblical leadership is, helping you see it not only as a task but as an expression of their life in Christ. This is a chance to help leaders see the importance of their own Spiritual and Personal growth before they look at how they can help others grow in Christ.

1. DEFINITION of a Leader

A Biblical Leader is a disciple, who makes disciples, by being a disciple...

... empowered by the Holy Spirit for the sake of God's glory and His Mission.

2. How does this live it self out in IDENTITIES

*A Leader lives this out by **declaring** the truth of their identity in Christ to others...*

*... and **displaying** a life in line with this truth to others.*

Planning for Vine Churches Growth

Vine Church has 3 major contexts for each members growth – Sunday Gathering, Community Groups, and Gospel Friendships. We then seek to have a deep continuity between each of these contexts, therefore our sermon series impacts all areas. This coming Term, Vine Church will be making its way through the Gospel of John **Chapters 1-4**. Below you can find the planner for this term and the material that will be used for our church.

Date	4 Feb	11 Feb	18 Feb	25 Feb	4 Mar	11 Mar	18 Mar	25 Mar	1 Apr	8 Apr
Series	GOSPEL OF JOHN (1-4)									
Event	FAITH & THEOLOGY	COMMUNITY GROUP SERIES						WEEKEND AWAY	EASTER SERIES	
Rhythm	Faith & Theo.	1	2	3	4	5	6	Social	Palm Sunday	Easter Sunday
ID Focus	Learner	Learner & Family						Family	Mission	

As you can see above, our term for Community Groups begins on the **4 Feb** and runs up to Easter. We will be studying each week the Gospel of John (chps. 1-4) with the first Sunday sermon on the **8 Feb**. You will notice that we have different events happening over this term – Faith & Theology (introduction night into the Gospel of John); normal Community Groups; Weekend Away (with a focus on integration); and Easter.

Important to note is the **rhythms** of the term. These match the **ID Focus**, helping you to plan your term consistently and effectively. Groups should have normal Community Groups where the focus is on listening to God in His word and connecting with each other in prayer and sharing in this middle section. **DON'T PUT A SOCIAL HERE**. Let your group develop a great momentum in reading the bible and sharing together. You may want to vary it up by having a normal night but splitting the guys and the girls into different houses and even maybe link with another group, but just do the normal really well for a consistent 6 weeks. Our weekend away week is a great time to integrate new comers and also solidify the family identity in your group so do something fun that week. For the last two weeks you may want to have a mission focus as Easter is here, doing prayer walks, walk up evangelism, spending nights with unbelieving friends, etc.

This guide above should help you also see opportunities to raise up people in your group to lead, such as social week, mission initiatives, and leading bible studies. **Please follow the guide above so that we have consistency in our groups.**

Over the 6 weeks in the middle, your groups will be studying John's Gospel. The rhythm cycle of ones week is...



This cycle means 3 things for every leader...

1. Meet with someone between Thurs – Sun to read the passage before hand and ask questions of the text. To do this use **Explore Bible Notes** (see Resource Page) as they are a great guide through the Gospel of John. There are 70 readings (John 1-12) in the Explore Notes and we have a 10 week term so that is 1 reading per day.
2. Come every Sunday and listen intently as we all spend time thinking hard and apply the passage. Encourage all your group to attend every Sunday with you.

The result of steps 1-2 is that when people come to Community Group they come filled to the brim, ready to engage in questions and application.

3. Gather for Mid-Week Community Group where you spend **60%** of the time gaining greater clarity over the text, asking questions of it, thinking over major themes, and the **40%** helping one another to apply the text to their lives. As a leader this is where the majority of your prep needs to be done as you are called to have stepped first in all this, so use the extra sermons, bible study notes, and booklets to help you prepare. There will also be a weekly email sent to leaders offering some suggestions.

Please head to vinechurch.com.au/blog to find the **Leadership Resource** post for this series that will give you all the links that you need.

Planning Leaders Growth

Every leader needs to sit down each term and think about how they can grow spiritually and personally. Use the attached form in the appendix to help leaders think through and apply how they will grow this term. Once done, pray for each of the leaders and restate the support and training that comes through Gospel Coaches and Gospel Trainers.

Planning the Groups Growth

Every Leader needs to be thinking and praying about the growth of their group. Community Group Leaders grow a group through 2 methods: **specific** and **general** oversight. Let me break these down...

Specific Oversight is...the personal discipling of 1-2 individuals of the same gender over a period of 10-12 weeks. This personal discipling means the leader *knows, feeds, leads, and protects* their disciple through **truth** in God's word and **love** in prayer and service. Basically, you make a deep friend for the sake of Christ and their growth in Him. Specific oversight is intentional (purpose of growth), directional (moves them forward and is progressive), and relational (regular and honest friendship). The best way a leader can do this is to meet with the disciple weekly to read the bible, pray, and connect. Leaders will most likely choose to disciple someone who will grow to lead their own Community Group one day, therefore their investment is to make more disciples through discipling this one disciple.

General Oversight is...the impacting the group from a bird's eye view. Leader do this through a few means...

- **Teaching** the bible to keeping a Gospel saturated group
- **Correcting and protecting** individuals or the group from false teaching
- **Connecting** believers for Gospel Friendships (small groups of discipleship), and helping direct and resource these
- **Praying** for the group regularly
- **Raising up** specific people for specific areas of ministry/giftings (**hospitality, mission, service – see Romans 12**)

One pattern for General Oversight that I find easy to follow is...**Every Term, pray; Every Week, call 2 people; Every Event, encourage and challenge 2 people.**

So here are a few questions to help you think through the term to help the growth of your group...

1. Who am I discipling?
2. Who can disciple who?
3. Who needs love, care, and support?
4. Who's gift needs an expression? (**teaching, serving, socializing, hospitality**)
5. Who is integrating into the group this term?
6. Are there any sins in the group that need addressing?

Leaders Planner

Discipleship Planner

This Leaders Planner seeks to help leaders think through and pray over goals and hopes for the upcoming term. If leaders are those who lead by growing as disciples, this planner helps them think through each **IDENTITY** they have in Christ helping them step first in growing. This planner is an opportunity for prayer and an opportunity for accountability and support from their Gospel Coach. It is to be signed by both as a commitment to one another that the leaders growth is a gospel-priority this term.

SPIRITUAL

Whom are you praying for...**growth & conversion?**

What is your pattern of daily devotions in word and prayer?

What area of scripture or doctrine will you study this term?

Select an area below in which you will work through via conference or sermon audio...

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Discipleship | <input type="checkbox"/> Heaven, Hell, & Eternity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission | <input type="checkbox"/> Relationships and Marriage | <input type="checkbox"/> Suffering |

What sins are you seeking to put to death?

How generous both materially and relationally do you plan to be?

What is your Spiritual hope for this term?

PERSONAL

What are my health and fitness goals for this term?

Which friends and family are you investing in this term?

What is happening with work this term?

How are your life disciplines going (finances, health, sleep)?

What do you need to cut from your personal life this term? (**habits, hobbies, etc**)

What do you need to add to your personal life this term? (**habits, hobbies, etc**)

MISSIONAL

Name three strangers (**work colleagues, neighbours, etc**) you are wishing to connect with this term...

Do you know how to share the Gospel to someone? What hindrances may you have?

In what ways are you making disciples this term (**believers & unbelievers**)?

What in your life is going to stop you being an effective leader for Christ?

What challenges will you face this term in the ministry area you lead?

Which **IDENTITY** do you need to focus more on this term to help lead others in it? (**Mission, Learner, Servant, Worship, Family**)