

MONTHLY MEETING OUTLINE

PREPARATION

Ask each team member to read the corresponding chapter in *Creature of the Word* and to spend time alone praying through the assessment for that chapter. Invite team members to capture their ideas and thoughts as they read the chapter. What specific questions caused them to stop and evaluate their own lives and the life of the church?

As the leader of the team, spend time praying for the meeting and for each team member. Ask the Lord for a fresh perspective on your life and the life of the church. Prepare yourself to lead in a way that is real and authentic. Be ready to share your own struggles with the team as a way to invite them to do the same.

Ideally your team should be made up of your key church leaders; maybe it's your elder body, executive team or leadership team, whatever body of leaders is responsible for carrying out the mission of the church. That's who you want going through the assessment and in the room when you meet.

The assessment is beneficial for any team or individual. It will help clarify how the gospel of Jesus Christ should permeate the entire church culture, beginning with our own individual lives.

MEETING

Set aside time to discuss each chapter as part of a regularly scheduled meeting or set up a separate meeting each month, whatever works best. Be prepared to dedicate at least an hour to this discussion. Put these dates on the calendar and put this topic on your agendas.

Develop a plan for the meeting. You have several options:

- Ask members for portions of the chapter that were most meaningful to them personally and why. Invite all members to participate in the discussion.
- Use the assessment. Work through each question or work through the questions that you and your team found most meaningful to your lives and to your church.
- As the discussion flows, ask someone to capture the areas that are being mentioned the most by team members. These could be potential areas to change, eliminate or tweak.
- Don't shy away from tackling hard or difficult issues. Put a concrete plan together with deadlines and persons responsible for each step.

- Don't feel the pressure to get through every question in the assessment. If you and your team need to spend more time wrestling through the implications of a particular question or even a particular month's assessment, then do that.
- Pray. And then pray some more.

Listen. First, to the Holy Spirit and how He guides the discussion in the meeting. Second, to your team members and the issues they bring up. Don't get defensive. Let open and honest conversations take place. If someone gets defensive, take a timeout. Pray. Then lead the group back to that issue and together search for a way to wrestle through it. Your team will be a better team because of that. When solved, celebrate that you were able to work through the issue.

Use the assessment to dive deep into issues. These questions are designed to help you evaluate your own life and the life of the church. Use the renewal section to help you develop an action plan.

POST MEETING

Remind team members of actions they are responsible for from the previous meeting and remind them to prepare for the upcoming meeting.

Pray for next month's meeting.

On the *Creature of the Word* Facebook page, post questions or victories that you and your church have experienced by working through the assessment each month.