

VITAL

AN EXERCISE IN PRACTICAL THEOLOGY FOR AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES

VITAL WORKSHEETS

CHAPTER 1: KINGDOM ALIGNED VISION

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 1.1

1. What do the NCLS results tell you about the clarity and ownership of vision in your church?

2. What are your reflections on your church vision statement (if you have one)?

3. How has this vision impacted the life and decision-making of your church in the last 12 months?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 1.2

1. What do you think is the most important insight for church vision emerging from this survey of Scripture and tradition?

2. What does this survey of Scripture and tradition tell you about your church's vision?

3. On a scale of 1 to 10, how hope-full is your church?

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CHAPTER 1: KINGDOM ALIGNED VISION

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 1.3

1. If you have a church vision statement, how does it measure up according to the criteria discussed in this section?

2. Does your church vision need a tweak or do you need to start from scratch?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 1.4

1. What do you think is the most important insight for church vision emerging from this survey of Scripture and tradition?

2. What do you feel is the most important insight regarding kingdom aligned vision generated by this chapter?

3. What do you feel is the most important insight on kingdom aligned hope and vision for your church generated by this chapter?

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CHAPTER 2: STRONG COMMUNITY

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 2.1

1. What percentage of the church are involved in small groups?

2. Does your church vision need a tweak or do you need to start from scratch?

3. What activities does your church have which foster strong community?

4. What other evidence do you have that your church has a strong sense of community? (Think back to some of the factors described in the Introduction to this chapter.)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 2.2

1. What do you think is the most important insight for church community emerging from this survey of Scripture and tradition?

2. What does this survey of Scripture and tradition tell you about your church community?

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CHAPTER 2: STRONG COMMUNITY

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 2.3

1. What does this survey of human wisdom tell you about church community?

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2. What does this survey of human wisdom tell you about your church community?

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS 2.4

1. What do you feel is the most important insight on sense of community generated by this chapter?

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2. What do you feel is the most important insight on sense of community for your church generated by this chapter?

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3. What else could your church do to foster a stronger sense of community?

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CHAPTER 2: STRONG COMMUNITY

ACTION STEPS

After listening to the ideas of the other leaders, what should our church do to foster a stronger sense of community?

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CHAPTER 3: OUTWARDS FOCUS

| MINISTRY/ACTIVITY | MAINLY FOCUSED ON THOSE INSIDE THE CHURCH | FOCUSED ON BOTH THOSE INSIDE THE CHURCH AND OUTSIDE THE CHURCH | MAINLY FOCUSED ON THOSE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH |
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CHAPTER 3: OUTWARDS FOCUS

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 3.1

1. What would it look like if our church was outwardly focused? Are we?

2. What does our NCLS survey reveal about our church's outward focus?

3. What other evidence is there that our church is outwardly focused?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 3.2

1. What does this survey of theology and church history tell you about outward focus?

2. What does this survey of human wisdom tell you about your church's outward focus?

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CHAPTER 3: OUTWARDS FOCUS

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 3.3

1. What does this survey of human wisdom tell you about outward focus?

2. What does this survey of human wisdom tell you about your church's outward focus?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 3.4

1. What do you feel is the most important insight on outward focus generated by this chapter?

2. What do you feel is the most important insight on outward focus for your church generated by this chapter?

3. What else could your church do to foster a stronger outward focus?

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CHAPTER 3: OUTWARDS FOCUS

ACTION STEPS

After listening to the ideas of the other leaders, what should our church do to foster a stronger outward focus?

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CHAPTER 4: EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP

| EMPOWERING BEHAVIOUR | WHERE OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM HAVE DONE THIS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS |
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| 1. The church has seen us leading by example | |
| 2. Coaching groups or individuals in the church | |
| 3. Encouraging groups or individuals in the church | |
| 4. Participative decision-making | |
| 5. Informing groups or individuals in the church about decisions or policy changes | |
| 6. Showing concern for groups or individuals in the church | |
| 7. Interacting with groups or individuals within the church | |
| 8. Helping develop relationships in groups within the church | |

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 4.1

1. What do the NCLS results tell you about the level of empowering leadership in your church?

2. What are your reflections on completing the empowering behaviour chart above?

3. What other evidence do you have that you are an empowering leadership team?

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CHAPTER 4: EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 4.2

1. What does this survey of theology and church history tell you about empowering leadership?

2. What does this survey of theology and church history tell you about your church's leadership style?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 4.3

1. What does this survey of human wisdom tell you about empowering leadership?

2. What does this survey of human wisdom tell you about your church's leadership style?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 4.4

1. How are servant leadership and empowering leadership already at work in your church?

2. Which of the principles of orthopraxis discussed above are most in need of your attention as a leadership?

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CHAPTER 4: EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP

ACTION STEPS

After listening to the ideas of the other leaders, what should we do, as leadership, to be more servant hearted and empowering of the people we have been entrusted to lead?

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CHAPTER 5: VIBRANT FAITH

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 5.1

1. Read through these Natural Church Development statements related to passionate spirituality. On a scale of 1 (not very true) to 5 (very true) how true are the statements for you and for your church?

- a. I experience God's work in my life
- b. I experience the transforming influences faith has in the different areas of my life (profession, family, spare time, etc)
- c. I often tell other Christians when I have experienced something from God
- d. Times of prayer are an inspiring experience for me
- e. I know that other church members pray for me regularly
- f. I enjoy reading the Bible on my own
- g. The Bible is a powerful guide for me in the decisions of everyday life
- h. I am enthusiastic about our church
- i. I firmly believe that God will act even more powerfully in our church in coming years
- j. Our leaders are spiritual examples to me.

2. The NCLS research measures a core quality called "Alive and Growing Faith." How did your church score in your most recent NCLS survey?

3. How does your church go about developing vibrant faith amongst your congregants?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 5.2

1. What do you think is the most important insight regarding vibrant faith emerging from this survey of Scripture and tradition?

2. What does this survey of Scripture and tradition tell you about vibrant faith in your church?

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CHAPTER 5: VIBRANT FAITH

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 5.3

1. What does this survey of human wisdom tell you about growing faith?

2. What does this survey of human wisdom tell you about growing faith in your church?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 5.4

1. What do you think is the most important insight regarding vibrant faith emerging from this survey of Scripture and tradition?

2. Is there anything you are unsure of or disagree with?

3. What do you feel is the most important insight on growing vibrant faith for your church generated by this chapter?

4. What else could you do to foster vibrant faith in your church?

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CHAPTER 5: VIBRANT FAITH

ACTION STEPS

After listening to the ideas of the other leaders, what should our church do to foster growing faith?

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CHAPTER 6: INSPIRING WORSHIP

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 6.1

1. One of the NCLS core qualities that your church survey would measure is "Vital and Nurturing Worship." How does your church rate on this measure? What are your reflections on this?

2. What are the key values of your church when it comes to corporate worship?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 6.2

1. What do you think is the most important insight regarding inspiring worship emerging from this survey of Scripture and tradition?

2. What does this survey of Scripture and tradition tell you about the corporate worship in your church?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 6.3

1. What does this survey of human wisdom tell you about church worship?

2. What does this survey of human wisdom tell you about your church's corporate worship?

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CHAPTER 6: INSPIRING WORSHIP

REFLECTION QUESTIONS 6.4

1. What do you feel is the most important insight regarding inspiring corporate worship generated by this chapter?

2. Is there anything you are unsure of or disagree with?

3. What do you feel is the most important insight on inspiring corporate worship for your church generated by this chapter?

ACTION STEPS

After listening to the ideas of the other leaders, what should we do, as a leadership, to make our worship services even more inspiring?

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5.