

Fivefold Ministry Worksheet

Session 3 – Journeying Together.

This week it will be helpful to have access to:

Session 1 Information sheet – Strengthening Bridge Church

Session 2 Information sheet – Summary of the fivefold ministry descriptions

Leaders: Bless you and thank you for your feedback from the first two sessions. Tracey and I are collating this and will be summarising back to both the church leadership team and groups (via group leaders) in the next few weeks. Please keep your feedback coming; this is an inclusive journey, and your feedback and experiences will help shape the next few weeks sessions.

Some common themes of feedback so far:

- **Gosh, there's a lot of information.**

You'll be glad to know that the main background information for Bridge Church and Fivefold ministry grace gifts is now with you and we'll be building on this and referring to it—don't lose it though and thanks for staying with it in the first two sessions.

- **Some groups have highlighted that growing in these Fivefold Grace gifts doesn't just happen – to fully embrace both fivefold ministry grace gifts and other spiritual gifts we need to be walking and growing with Father, Son and Holy Spirit both individually and as a church together.**

This is so true and is at the heart of all we are called to be (Jeremiah 29:11; Philippians 4:13). Perhaps during your prayer time this evening, you might consider this prayer:

Lord, help me to cultivate a heart of contentment and trust in you, no matter my circumstances. I pray that you would strengthen me and enable me to lay hold of and accomplish all that you have called me to be and do. Give me courage to walk in your ways, relying on Your strength and sufficiency in me, rather than purely in my own abilities and resources. Help me to walk forward in my earthly life being in this world but not of this world. Amen

(The last part of the prayer is referenced from John 17: 14 – 16)

- **Most groups have mentioned that it's been really helpful to see and appreciate the grace gifts personally and also the differences between us all. A lot of you have recognised the diversity of gifts within your groups and that has led you to think about the likely diversity within other groups and across the church. Also, how it**

might be possible to connect people with similar grace gifts to build up and encourage each other.

Yes, that is so good – well done. This is something for us to think about going forwards together – With reference back to the support document, “Strengthening Bridge Church”, which was part of session 1 information, many of the areas mentioned would be supported by us finding ways of growing together in our fivefold ministry gifts– perhaps you can discuss this in your groups – how might we consider doing this together? - it doesn’t have to be just one way - what would work for you?

Opening

Session 3 – Journeying Together.

Recap – Its important we really get a hold of who we are as Bridge Church, and that God’s has equipped and continues to equip us for our journey together. Remember please that this equipping still needs us to be actively using the grace gifts He has provided and like any athlete, using our gifts and listening to “the Coach” will help us be stronger and more able in our kingdom walk. It might be fun to ask the group what they remember of the vision statement – after all if a stranger asks any of us what our church is like? This makes an awesome and clear answer for us to have tucked away in our memories.

We are a church that believes in the Good News of Jesus Christ; that He came to pay the price of our sins so we might have a relationship with God the Father. We believe He has given us the Bible and that it is His Word. With the help of His Holy Spirit, we can not only understand the word of God but also live it out.

We as a church are called to live a life of worship to God which brings glory to His name and that encompasses every area of our lives. We are a church that seeks to stand by each other and support each other in life on a daily basis and believe that each individual is valuable and has a gifting that they can use in building the ministry of the church. We love God and love people, and it is our aim to share this Good News of Jesus Christ with the community of Launceston through the way in which we serve and love those in the community.

Remember God’s invitation to closer relationship

There are many bible passages that invite us to closer relationship with God; that encourage us to seek the things of heaven. For example:

Romans 12: 12. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 8:28. And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Isaiah 40:31. Yet those who wait for the Lord

Will gain new strength;

They will mount up with wings like eagles,

They will run and not get tired,

They will walk and not become weary.

These verses (and others) are so encouraging – they are invitations that show God desires that we walk with Him, learn from Him and be in intimate relationship with him.

Fivefold Ministry Grace Gifts – Shifting the focus.

One of the main things I hope we are getting a handle on is that Christ gave spiritual gifts for His church. **That's for every disciple of Jesus.** Christ desires that we are His church, united in Him. So, in this case, a well-focused, fivefold ministry will equip and encourage us all to develop, mature and step out with our grace gifts to make impact with the gifts, abilities and influences that God has given us. For Bridge, us understanding this, walking together, encouraging each other to experience and grow together will ensure our continued equipping and preparedness for every good work our Father calls us to.

Activity: Session 3: Journeying Together.

This week we will use the session 1 information sheet titled, *“Strengthening Bridge Church”*, to help frame our thinking and discussion.

1. In session 1, you may remember we looked at this document (*Strengthening Bridge Church*), and asked these questions:
 - Is this looking like a journey I'm excited to be part of?
 - Am I able to get a sense of my own journey within Bridge Church?

On your own, please take a little time to look at the document again and re ask yourself the two questions, both as a reminder of your first-time reflections, and also to see what might have changed for you having explored more your fivefold ministry gifts in session 2.

Then, please share your reflections as a group and note what you have reflected on, especially where there have been changes or different levels of insight. If anyone has a picture or pictures or encouraging words for each other or a word or picture for the church, please record and feed back.

2. Now, please look at the seven areas of “Strengthening Bridge Church” and reflect on which fivefold ministry gifts might suit each of the seven areas – it may well be All of Them! – but please consider if each area might benefit from a specific leadership fivefold ministry style or styles. And if so, what would be the likely supporting styles that should be in place to balance the leadership style – remember to refer back to the “Summary of the fivefold ministry descriptions”, from session 2.

Please organise this reflection as per your group style and size. Maybe split into pairs and allocate the areas out first, then come back together and share – however you decide to share the task, please come back together to share your reflections. Please record and feedback.

Closing

How are group members feeling after this look at identifying Fivefold Ministry grace gifts to grow the seven areas of strengthening Bridge Church. Do people feel they have a part to play in this – encourage group members to think about their own gifts and areas involvement.

3. Celebrate what you have discussed and have a time of prayer and worship together. Do thank our Heavenly Father for any words, pictures and the insights you've had together. Also include
 - Themes from this evening can be lifted in prayer.
 - If excited, then let God know.
 - If reassurance needed, then seek God's grace and peace in people's hearts.
 - Other prayer needs in the room.

Leaders, please provide feedback from your session 1 to us by dropping an email to:

grahambates54@gmail.com and pinktraceyj@yahoo.co.uk

How did the session go?

Significant points raised?

Are group members seeing a place for themselves in this?

Areas that need further/future support/clarification?

Thanks

Graham and Tracey