



*That most basic question which God poses to each human heart:
Has something or someone besides Jesus Christ taken title
to your heart's functional trust, preoccupation,
loyalty, service, fear and delight?*

Richard Keyes (The Idol Factory)

| GOSPEL RHYTHMS AND FOUR BASIC QUESTIONS |

CELEBRATION | Sing of the grace, and goodness and glory of God

What has God shown you in the Word and in Prayer?

CONNECTION | Connect the story of God with the story of your life

What have you forgotten about how great is our God?

COMMUNITY | Live in the context of deep, authentic relationships

**How have you embarked on self-salvation projects by
pretending or performing?**

CONTRIBUTION | Live on mission with God

**How has your use of time, talent and treasure made it clear that
Jesus is your supreme treasure?**

| SOME PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS |

Plan to meet for one hour, but leave room for 1 1/4 hours.

Meet weekly or biweekly.

Be honest with each other up front if you feel like one member of the group is becoming distant. Don't talk behind their back! Share honestly with each other for the sake of the truth in love.

If you have something particularly significant to share let the group know at the beginning of the meeting so you can know that not all of the questions may be covered that week.

Don't become unnecessarily bogged down in any one question. It is important to try to cover each section each week.

Everything shared in Triads is confidential. DO NOT break this trust.

Decide together if you will permit information to be shared with spouses. Sometimes this can be helpful as long as strong confidentiality can extend to the spouse as well.

The purpose of confidentiality is not secrecy. The purpose of confidentiality is to offer a place for sin to come into the light. I encourage each person that as you learn to bring sin into the light and experience the grace, forgiveness and transformation of the Gospel consider whether or not it would be appropriate to share a testimony of this grace with your Community Group.

ALWAYS remember Jesus Christ and His Gospel. We are *not* transforming each other, we are being transformed by the power of His gospel.

| INTIMIDATION OR ABUSE |

If you believe there is a lingering inappropriate behavior, breach of confidentiality, or attitude of legalism, control, power, etc, first, bring the offense to the person within the context of the triad. But if it persists it is not a breach of confidentiality to bring the concern to the lead pastor. Triads can be a wonderful opportunity to fight for one another's joy, but because of sin they can also become a place of power and control. Such power and control is not a fruit of the Gospel and cannot be allowed to persist.

| RECOMMENDED RESOURCES |

Gospel-Centered Discipleship (book) by Jonathan Dodson :: A new book from an A29 pastor who has worked hard with his community to understand the nature of discipleship in community.

Gospel Fluency (5 videos) by Jeff Vanderstelt :: cpcoast.com/gospelfluency01
cpcaost.com/gospelfluency02
cpcaost.com/gospelfluency03
cpcaost.com/gospelfluency04
cpcaost.com/gospelfluency05

| CELEBRATION |

What has God shown you in the Word and in Prayer?

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS:

Did you set aside time this week to seek God in prayer and in His Word?

YES

When and where was it? What did you read?
How did God use that time to show you who He is?
Is there anything you need to confess out of your time in prayer?
Were you seeking God to inform and transform you by His Gospel?

NO

What did you allow get in your way of seeking God in prayer and in His Word?
How could we have helped you to take time to read and to pray?
Is there anything you need to repent of that is keeping you the Word and prayer?

FOUR QUESTIONS FOR THE WORD TO BRING TO PRAYER:

What does this passage say about who God is?
What does it say about what He has done?
What does it say about who we are in light of what He has done?
What is the Spirit saying?

| CONNECTION |

What have you forgotten about how great is our God?

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS:

How did you seek your joy in lesser things than God Himself (idolatry)? (See Root and Surface Idols)
What is a particular sin that flows from your idolatry?

GOSPEL FLUENCY: Comparing your thoughts to God's thoughts

What must I believe such that am I thinking this, saying this, doing this?

What does it say about who I am?
What does it say about who I believe God is?

Who is God actually?
What has God already done (in Christ)?

What does this say about who I am (in Christ)?
How do I live in a way that reflects that this is real?

| COMMUNITY |

How have you embarked on self-salvation projects by pretending or performing?

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS:

PRETENDING: See "Ways We Minimize Sin"

Where have you lacked integrity in your relationships?
Covet | Lust | Addictive Behavior | Lies | Hiding Sin

What is something in your life that you are afraid to bring into the light?

Is there a triad question you have been ignoring or avoiding as a group?

PERFORMING: See "Ways We Embark on Self-salvation Projects"

What is something you have boasted about yourself, even if it is only in your own heart?

Who have you judged?

| CONTRIBUTION |

How has your use of time, talent and treasure made it clear that Jesus is your supreme treasure?

*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
Matthew 13:44*

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS:

TIME Were you intentional to create space for your household, church, and community?
How are you partnering with your time at CPCoast?

TALENT Have you been a faithful steward of the gifts and opportunities God has given you?
What are they? How?
How are you partnering with your talent at CPCoast?

TREASURE Did generosity, out of a heart of gratitude as a fruit of the Gospel, come easily?
How are you partnering with your treasure at CPCoast?
Do you need to work through any giving questions, struggles with us?
Are you contemplating any large purchases in your household?
Have you squandered any of your treasure?
Are there any habitual, small purchases you need to evaluate?
Has your generosity led to boasting, self-righteousness or judgement?
Have there been any opportunities for generosity that you would like to celebrate?

If your community saw how you lived this week, would they think Jesus is your treasure and joy?

| ROOT IDOLS |

Power idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–I have power and influence over others.

Approval idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–I am loved and respected by ____.”

Comfort idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life.”

Control idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of ____.”

| SURFACE IDOLS |

Helping idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–people are dependent on me and need me.”

Dependence idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–someone is there to protect me and keep me safe.”

Independence idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone.”

Work idolatry: “Life only has meaning /I only have worth if–I am highly productive getting a lot done.”

Achievement idolatry: “Life only has meaning /I only have worth if–I am being recognized for my accomplishments, if I am excelling in my career.”

Materialism idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions.”

Religion idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–I am adhering to my religion’s moral codes and accomplished in its activities.”

Individual person idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–this one person is in my life and happy there and/or happy with me.”

Irreligion idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and with a self-made morality.”

Racial/cultural idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–my race and culture is ascendant and recognized as superior.”

Inner ring idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–a particular social grouping or professional grouping or other group lets me in.”

Family idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–my children and/OR my parents are happy and happy with me.”

Relationship idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–Mr. or Ms. ‘Right’ is in love with me.”

Suffering idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–I am hurting, in a problem–only then do I feel noble or worthy of love or am able to deal with guilt.”

Ideology idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–my political or social cause or party is making progress and ascending in influence or power.”

Image idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if–I have a particular kind of look or body image.

| WAYS WE MINIMIZE SIN |

Defending: I find it difficult to receive feedback about weaknesses or sin. When confronted, my tendency is to explain things away, talk about my successes, or to justify my decisions. As a result, I rarely have conversations about difficult things in my life.

Pretending: I strive to keep up appearances, maintain a respectable image. My behavior, to some degree, is driven by what I think others think of me. I also do not like to think reflectively about my life. As a result, not very many people know the real me (I may not even know the real me).

Hiding: I tend to conceal as much as I can about my life, especially the “bad stuff”. This is different than pretending in that pretending is about impressing. Hiding is more about shame. I don’t think people will accept the real me.

Blaming: I am quick to blame others for sin or circumstances. I have a difficult time “owning” my contributions to sin or conflict. There is an element of pride that assumes it’s not my fault AND/OR an element of fear of rejection if it is my fault.

Minimizing: I tend to downplay sin or circumstances in my life, as if they are “normal” or “not that bad”. As a result, things often don’t get the attention they deserve and have a way of mounting up to the point of being overwhelming.

Exaggerating: I tend to think (and talk) more highly of myself than I ought to. I make things (good and bad) out to be much bigger than they are (usually to get attention). As a result, things often get more attention than they deserve, and have a way of making me stressed or anxious.

| WAYS WE EMBARK ON SELF-SALVATION PROJECTS |

Job Righteousness: God helps those who help themselves. If I work hard, God will reward me.

Family Righteousness: If I just do things right as a parent, I will be accepted by God/others/myself.

Theological Righteousness: I have good theology. Of course God is pleased with me!

Intellectual Righteousness: I am better read, more articulate, and more culturally savvy than others, which obviously makes me superior.

Schedule Righteousness: I am self-disciplined and rigorous in my time management. God is pleased with my stewardship of time.

Flexibility Righteousness: In a world that’s busy, I’m flexible and relaxed. I always have time for others. God appreciates my laid-back demeanor.

Mercy Righteousness: I care more about the poor and disadvantaged than other people, and this makes me better in the eyes of God.

Legalistic Righteousness: I don’t drink, smoke, or chew, or date girls who do. God is pleased by my moral convictions.

Financial Righteousness: I manage money wisely and stay out of debt, so God must think highly of me.

Political Righteousness: If you really love God, you’ll vote for my candidate.

Tolerance Righteousness: I am open-minded and charitable toward those who don’t agree with me. In fact, I’m a lot like Jesus that way!