

Core Study #1

Welcome, Intro and Short Devotional

PREPARATION:

1. **Location:** Discuss with each other (Core leader and co-leader) about a suitable location for your first Core. Make sure you'll have enough space for everybody and try as much as possible to be in a location on campus that will reach out to first years (Totem, Vanier, Marine, etc).
2. **Invitation:** Be sure to personally contact, by phone, each of your new Core members. Personally invited them out and give them the necessary direction to your Core.
3. **Food:** Decide who will bring food.
4. **Short devotional:** Even at your first Core, take 5 minutes to center your time in scripture. Below is a passage you can use, or share a passage that God has been speaking to you lately.

Here is a possible agenda for you first Core. You might want to change it around, but there are some important elements to your first Core you should be aware to include:

AGENDA:

- Arrival & Snack time**
- Informal Welcome to UCM Core**
- Mixer/ Get to know you Questions:**
 - Why are you here?
 - At UBC, program, etc.
 - What do you want to get out of your time at University?
 - What do you want to get out of this Core group?
 - Have you ever been in a bible study/ discipleship group?
- Define "CORE" [Leader to facilitate]**
 - Why is Core called "Core"?
 - Because it's core to what UCM is all about!
 - Explain the 5 Core Values of UCM and their part in Core Bible Study
 - Discipleship, Worship, Prayer, Fellowship and Outreach
- Short Devotional on Exodus 6:6-8 (5-10 minutes) [Leader to facilitate]**

This semester our Core is going to read through the book of Exodus together with all the other Cores in UCM. We're excited that this book will be a connecting point for all members of UCM as well as a focal point. One of the passages that stands out is Ex. 6:6-8 where the character of God and how he works for his people is outlined.

- Give an introduction to the book of Exodus. You can look at the background to Exodus that was given to you along with the study guides.
- Read Exodus 6:6-8
- Question/Points:
 - What is God telling Moses about himself in this passage?

Possible Answers: Moses is to speak God's promise to them, that he will bring out the Israelites, free them from slavery, and redeem them. The end result is that (1) they will become the people of God, (2) Yahweh will be there God, and (3) they will know that Yahweh has delivered them. The focus of God's message to the Israelites is on who he is, and their assessment of the situation must be based on that immovable fact.

- The student exec chose the following passage as a theme verse for UCM this year. Can you see any point of intersection between this passage in Exodus and the theme verse?
 - "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God!" (John 15:4; Romans 12:2, NKJV)

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It is who God is that we can trust in and who we abide in and are transformed by. We cannot be freed from slavery, saved from sin or grow in spiritual maturity without our Father, our Savior and the Holy Spirit.

- ❑ **Close in a short prayer** [Leader or Co-leader]
- ❑ **Invite them back next week** (give directions if new location)

Facilitator's Note: *The goals for your first week of core are a bit different than normal weeks. You'll notice that we have picked a passage that is relatively short and simple. This is because your main priority in the first week is not really digging into the text. You want to focus more on helping the people in your core get to know each other, and to build a sense of community. These are the goals we usually have for the first week:*

- 1.) *Help everyone who comes feel welcome*
- 2.) *Try to help this feel less like a random group who doesn't know each other, and more like a group of potential friends with a common desire (to grow in their faith, etc.)*
- 3.) *Give them a sense for what our studies are like (i.e., we take the bible seriously and we want to ask real questions of it).*
- 4.) *Give them a sense of ownership by asking what they are wanting out of this study (this isn't them coming to listen to someone speak – it's "us" as a group trying to grow in our faith.*

Think through, therefore, what your opening questions will be – we've given you some options, but you may think they're idiotic, so by all means, don't use them! Just do something that will help everyone in the group begin to remember names, etc.

P.S. – snacks help!