

## DOING MINISTRY TOGETHER



# lifeline | 07.04.10

## ice breaker

Use one of the following questions to open up discussion. (If you have first-time guests, be sure to have people tell their names as they answer the icebreaker question.)

- 1 What was your house like at age 7? What do you remember about your room?
- 2 What did your parents do right in raising you?
- 3 What has been a high point of your summer so far?

## Our Mission

The Vineyard Church . . . continuing the work of Jesus.

## Upcoming Events

**Prophetic Training:** Saturday, July 10, 6-7:30pm, CenterStage.

**VSB SonQuest Rainforest:** July 12-16, 6-8:30pm. For children entering preschool through fifth grade.

**Have a New Kid by Friday:** July 12-16, 6:15-8:15pm. Come to this fun class to learn new parenting techniques while children attend VBS.

**Action Weekend:** July 23-24, Friday: 6:45-9:30, Saturday: 8:45am-12:30pm. Classes include Learning to Minister Like Jesus, VBI—Biblical Overview, SHAPE, Marriage Coaching, How to Lead a High-Impact Small Group.

## Suggested Songs

Each week we will suggest several songs for you to use during worship time. Feel free to choose two or three of these songs, or you may choose your own songs. We will include pdf files of the lyrics and chords as an attachment to the Lifeline email.

SALT AND LIGHT (Key: G) Jan & John L'Ecuyer © 2000

BEAUTIFUL ONE (Key: D) Tim Hughes © 2002 Thankyou Music

HOLY (Key: D) Brenton Brown © 2001 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire)

WITH ALL OF MY HEART (Key: A) Dave Fife © 2006 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing

LOVE CAME DOWN (Key: E) Ben Cantelon © 2006 WorshipTogether.com

## Our Study: Doing Ministry Together

**objectives:** *As small group members and guests, we will:*

1. Understand the four stages of spiritual growth—childhood, adolescence, parenting, and grandparenting—and how to cooperate with God and grow in each stage.
2. Identify which stage we are in personally right now.
3. Articulate one specific way that God is calling us to grow and pour our lives into others.

**study/prayer time:** *Please feel free to adjust this study to fit your group's needs and to the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is not necessary to use all of the questions.*

1. Break up into groups of two or three and pray for your friends who need Jesus.



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2. Take some time to discuss the four stages of spiritual growth. The Bible outlines four seasons or phases of spiritual growth that can be seen in the following passages (as well as others):
  - a. **Birth and Childhood (John 3:3; 1 Peter 2:2-3):** In this stage we enter God's family and our primary focus is to learn and grow.
  - b. **Youth/Adolescence (1 John 2:12-14):** In this stage we take responsibility for our own spiritual growth and have learned to overcome temptation and evil. We are learning in this season to make a difference in others' lives and to give back some of the things that God has given us.
  - c. **Parenting (1 Thessalonians 2:7):** Now we are investing in the lives of others in substantial ways. We are connecting with Christ and pouring our lives into others. This goes beyond parenting our own children; in fact, stellar examples of spiritual parenting in the Bible are sometimes single people like Paul and Christ himself (John 17:9; 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12).
  - d. **Grandparenting (2 Timothy 2:2):** The Bible doesn't use the term "grandparent" for this phase. But it speaks of a shift of going from investing in other Christ-followers to investing in leaders and in leaders of leaders.
3. The ultimate goal then in spiritual growth is not learning more and more or even just becoming more and more like Christ. It is connecting with Christ and then following his example by pouring our lives into others, letting his life, grace, truth and power flow from our lives into others. What stage of spiritual growth are you in right now? Do you feel like you are stuck or moving forward? What is the next step for you to move ahead, to let your life more fully move toward its full impact and destiny?
4. Have someone read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12. Ask, what stands out to you in this passage?
5. In this passage Paul is talking about caring for young believers like a caring mother or a loving father. When you were in this portion of your walk with God, who cared for you through means of encouragement, discipleship, training, etc? What was most helpful to your spiritual growth? What would have been helpful that you failed to receive?
6. Each of us is called to invest in others to bring God's love to the world. There is essentially no other way to make God's love real to others. This is costly, but immensely rewarding. Who is God calling you to invest your life into in the days and years ahead? Where do you have a passion to make a difference? Is it with children, youth or adults? Is it with people like you or people very different from you? Is your ministry to individuals with a special need or a group facing a particular challenge in life?
7. What do you see as one of your special callings in serving others and making a difference in the world?
8. What is the very next step for you to grow in Christ and make a difference in the world?
9. After a time of worship, break up into smaller groups and pray for one another. Consider praying for God's wisdom regarding your personal walk with Jesus and what He may be asking you to surrender to take the next step on that path.