

Celebrate Change

A lot of times it's difficult for people to recognize their own spiritual growth. That's because spiritual growth like physical growth is mostly slow and subtle in the moment. It's easier to see cumulative growth in retrospect than to recognize it in the moment that's why one of our eight Leader Essentials, is to Celebrate Change.

It's a good idea to continually ask yourselves this question; How do I and the other group members celebrate the growth we see occurring in one another?

Keep on the lookout! As your group's leader, you are uniquely positioned to see a group member's growth and point it out. Celebrating Change demonstrates that you value what God is doing in each group member's life. It reminds everyone that God is really doing something in the group and that what He's doing really matters.

So here are some things you can do to watch for life change....

Pay attention to prayer requests, how God answers those prayer requests and even how group members respond to God's answers. They can tell you how God may be at work in people's lives and more important how he's at work in their hearts.

Another thing, **don't just watch for changes in behavior, watch for changes in attitude and priority** that signal that people are viewing things more and more through the lense of God's truth. It's tempting to think of life change in terms of shifts in behavior but that isn't necessarily the goal. The goal is for people to become more and more like Jesus and sometimes that involves a shift in perspective in addition to or instead of merely just a change of behavior. It can look like trusting God despite discouraging or confusing circumstances.



It could be somebody prioritizing the wisdom of God's words when making those decisions. Or developing a forgiving and compassionate heart.

We celebrate the things we value so don't let opportunities to celebrate life change just pass by. When you see someone is starting to view his or her circumstances attitudes and actions through the lense of scripture take time out to affirm that change. Use your discretion. Sometimes it's not the best to call attention to life changes in front of the group, maybe the change is a sensitive subject matter for that group member, but you can still celebrate in a more private setting. Write a personal note or take that group member to lunch, offer encouragement about what you have seen God do in his or her life. How you celebrate depends on the situation, what will make the other person feel valued, and your personal leadership style. Just make sure to look for change and celebrate it when you see it. By celebrating change you can set the stage for God to do incredible work in the lives of your group members. You can help them to recognize when and how God is working in their lives and that is always worth celebrating!

