

# Covenant Group Tune-Up

## Intro

### Eagerness: making room for the Spirit

**“For Paul the gathered church was first of all a worshipping community; and the key to their worship was the presence of the Holy Spirit.”**

*-Gordon Fee, *God's Empowering Presence*, 884*

- The best thing that could happen to your group is for you to experience the ministry of the Holy Spirit!

#### I. Cultivate desire for the Spirit's presence

- If you don't value it, you will not export it to others as you serve and lead.
  
- Not surprisingly, one of the ways to cultivate your appreciation for the Spirit's work and ministry is by putting resources to work.
  - *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*, Jack Deere
  - *Surprised by the Voice of God*, Jack Deere
  - *Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts*, Sam Storms
  - *The Gift of Prophecy*, Wayne Grudem
  - *God's Empowering Presence*, Gordon Fee
  - *When God Comes to Church*, Raymond Ortlund Jr.

## 2. Lean forward in ministry

- Convictions that enable spiritual gifts to function properly:
  - Our ability to function in spiritual gifts – like anything else – is strengthened through use.
  - The Holy Spirit is *leaning forward*, ready to minister to His people.
  - There's no way around risk. Humility is an absolute prerequisite.
  - God uses imperfect words and expressions.
  - The charismatic *gift* that governs the charismatic gifts is the gift of leadership.

## 3. Use music intentionally

- Music is not unrelated to the ministry and gifts of the Spirit.

2 Kgs 3:15 “... And when the musician played the hand of the Lord came upon him and he said, ‘Thus saith the Lord...’”

- Some chord progressions for free singing or ministry times:
  - G – C
  - Em – D – C
  - G – D – C
  - G – Am – C – D
  - G/B – C – D

## Evaluation: Learning & growing one meeting at a time

### Shaping the meeting, *after* the meeting

- Growth in character and musical gifting opens up the possibility for the CG leader and the person serving in worship to communicate more about the meeting and plan with greater intentionality.

## Reviewing the elements

- The Holy Spirit works powerfully in the heart, bringing about changes that are outwardly observable.

### The CG meeting

- What aspect of the evening seemed to connect best with the people's hearts tonight?

*To get to that, ask things like...*

- Did the group seem particularly stirred during singing?
- Especially engaged in application discussion?
- During prayer time?
- Deeper conversations during fellowship than usual?

### The CG culture

*Identify areas of health*

- Open and honest in discussion
- Young believers – humble and hungry
- Responsive during singing
- Enjoy praying for each other (together and while apart)
- Doctrinally mature; students of Scripture

*Identify areas of weakness*

- Hesitant to confess current struggles with sin
- Spiritually complacent, slack in striving toward sanctification
- Unresponsive during worship times
- Slow to step out in spiritual gifts
- Doctrinally weak; immature in understanding of Scripture

- Are there any observable signs of growth? In humility, care for another, boldness in testimony, doctrinal grounding, strengthening of leadership, stepping out in faith?

*As you take new steps toward growth in character and musical skill, and as your gifts find a place of expression in a Covenant Group, God will be glorified and the church will be built up!*

## **Questions**