**Outline of an all church event at New Hope Community Church to find our Biblical Story**

**Finding Our Biblical Story July 13 5- 8 PM**

**Set up at 4 PM July 13**

**Purpose:**

* To discern how God is at work in our congregation by tapping into a biblical story and using it as a frame of reference.
* To have a positive all church event that is spiritual, strategic and community building
* To help us learn to think biblically and theologically about our church community and what God is doing in the midst of us.

**Key Verse:**

**Jeremiah 33:3** (NIV)

‘Callto me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’

**Key Question:** Which Biblical Story best describes out **current** reality and the challenges before us?

**Rational:** The biblical story helps us to see ourselves in light of the Scriptures. It provides a means of interpreting how the Spirit is moving in this current season of life and ministry together.

**Attendance estimate:**

We are guess-timating 4 tables of 6 to 7 people each for this event.

**What is needed from the Vitality Team?**

* Pastor Steve will preach a sermon on July 7 outlining the concept of finding our biblical story using Romans 15:1-6 as a text.
* Charlie Day will put together a handout worksheet for July 7
* Dianne will put together a list of Bible stories for the back of the handout
* Set up/clean up and maintenance of the pot luck
* Leading or co-leading a table

**Event Guidelines:**

* Have fun learning together
* Eliminate Electronic Distractions
* No Sidebar conversations
* Honor all ideas
* Live on the boundaries of your ideas

**Table Leader Tasks:**

* Make sure everyone has opportunity to share and be heard
* Honor all ideas
* Have a timing device to limit sharing to 3 minutes
* Write down everyone’s story title on newsprint
* Lead to a consensus as possible to one story for your table
* Understand discernment verses voting
* Be willing to share your tables story with the whole group only if no one else from the table is willing/able to share
* Honor the guidelines

**The Sunday before:**

* Pastor Steve will preach a sermon about finding our biblical story using Romans 15:1-6 as a text and outline the event and the concept.
* Church members will be given a worksheet to help them discern a biblical story to bring to the event.
* Everyone will be encouraged to sign up after worship one last time.
* Encourage people to bring their bibles to the event.

**The Event Time Line:**

**4:00 PM**

Vitality team meets in the sanctuary to take down chairs / set up tables / set up flip charts / put on coffee / set out drinks / pray

**5:00 PM- Eating and Socializing**

Gather / opening prayer / explanation of guidelines / Brief reminder of purpose /Potluck

**5:45 PM**

Break to clear table / grab drink or dessert / bathroom / find a few quiet moments to pray and reflect on the story they will bring to their table

**6:00 PM - Table Work**

* Table leaders lead in an opening prayer for God’s leading, discernment, open sharing, active listening and holy imagination and creativity.
* Each person has 3 minutes to share which story they sensed God leading them to. They should explain why this is a significant story for our church right now. Remind them that it is OK if you have the same story that someone else shared. We are looking for common themes.
* Do not allow others to comment on each story. The focus is to listen to each other, not to place value judgments on anything yet.
* After everyone has shared, pray that God would lead your table to discern the story that best fits our church. Remind them to hold their own ideas lightly and try to get a sense of God’s leading.
* Pause for a time of individual prayer of discernment. This can be simply everyone at the table closing their eyes and silently praying or you may give people the option of finding a quite place and returning to the table after a 5-minute break.

**6:25 PM**

Take a 5 Minute break

**6:30 PM**

* Return to your table and allow each person to briefly share in two or three sentences which story resonates for them and why.
* Narrow the stories down to two or three that people connected with the strongest
* Pause and pray to be led to find the one story for your table. Allow for silent prayer.
* Have people share their leadings and attempt a consensus.
* Ask who would be willing to share your table’s story with the whole group. If no one is willing or able, the table leader will share.

**7:00 PM- Whole Group Work**

* Each table’s spoke person will share which story they sensed God leading them to with the whole group. They should explain why this is a significant story for our church right now.
* These stories will be listed on newsprint
* Pastor Steve will lead the whole group in a discernment process to lead to a consensus to find the one story.
* If no consensus can be reached the Vitality Team will work will take the list of stories to their next meeting and try to discern God’s leading.

**8:00 PM – Heading Home**

* Thanks you’s
* Closing Prayer
* Clean up
* Give your newsprint sheet lists to Steve Wyllie to bring to our next Vitality Team meeting so the team can learn about all the stories that were shared.