

3 STEPS TO THRIVING AFTER FALL RETREAT!

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Fall retreat is over. If you are like many leaders after fall retreat, you are excited and disappointed at the same time. Your upcoming test and homework seem to be looming, but God did so many amazing things! Then, you consider the minimal sleep you got in the last 48 hours and are hoping to snag a nap before another week of the hustle-bustle.

These next 7 days are VITAL! Don't allow what God did to fade in the fond memories of Fall semester. As a leader, the next 7 days may be more important than the previous weekend at Fall retreat.

Why? Because follow-up and follow through are the will of God. He wants to complete the good work He started.

So, here is a simple approach to the next 7 days:

1. Give thanks.

Thank God every day for what he did at Fall Retreat. Ask Him to continue to move on the hearts of those who attended. Thanking God will encourage you when coming off the "mountain top" experience. You won't feel so sad that the Spiritual high is over. Thanking God also reminds us to pray for the small group bros/sisters who were there.

2. Take an inventory of what God did.

Take time to journal. It doesn't have to be long. Think of it this way: journaling is documentation of your walk with God. Make a list of things God did in your life,

then, make a list of what God did in the lives of people from small group. This gives you a reference when doing your next one-on-one or small group session. REMEMBERING what God did helps you ask the right questions. For instance, if someone was set free from bitterness against a father, you will know to ask how the new forgiveness is going. If you know someone was baptized in the Holy Spirit, you can see if he/she has been praying in their prayer language every day since.

3. Make a “to-do” list for the next 7 days.

Don't spend your time sporadically over the next 7 days—spend it right. Meet with or call the people who need follow up from Fall Retreat. You may say, “what if the person isn't still walking in the good thing God did?” I would say that is the person who needs follow-up the most. A true friend will follow up to avoid a mess up!

You may have seen someone receive prayer, but you didn't know what happened—put it on the list! Ask the person, “How did praying go at the altar?” “What did God do in your life this weekend?” Someone from your group may have received prayer, but nothing happened. That situation gives you the opportunity to pray again about the issue or request. You can keep Fall Retreat going right where you are!

BE SENSITIVE DURING YOUR FIRST SMALL GROUP AFTER FALL RETREAT. You want to ensure that you are comparing notes and rejoicing in what God did, but you don't want to make others feel terrible for not being there. Rejoice and report, but make sure you only spend limited time on that topic. Continue to move forward with what God wants to do now in your group.

May God bless you as you lead,

Dave Leedahl

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