

- Quick introductions
 - Then go to group activity on next slide
1. Share name and whether you picked risky adventure or no adventures - 5 min
 2. Go to Group Activity -35 min

Instructions for Group Activity

Write 2 contrasting stories together.

A group of friends meet each other when they are around 25-28 years old, what does their life look like 25 years later?

One story is, they were **not in** an incendiary community, the other story is they **were in** an incendiary community.

Consider questions like these, and have fun being creative:

- On what have they spent their time?
- Who are they hoping to meet along the way?
- What are their life achievements?
- What did they do with their money?
- What do they care about the most?
- Consider - family, work, community, church involvement

Use the following 5 people in each **Story #1** – Assume they are church going, but not on fire for the Lord, ie. not in an incendiary community.

Story #2 – Same 5 are part of an incendiary community.

The five people in your group of friends are:

- a. Doctor recently joining a group practice in San Diego - concerned about paying off med school debt
- b. Teacher in San Dieguito Unified School District - overwhelmed with online education stress
- c. Business person working downtown San Diego enjoying not having to be as frugal as in college
- d. Server at a restaurant in Encinitas - works long hours
- e. Full time ministry worker – pick the ministry

Group 1

Story #1 – Assume they are church going, but not on fire for the Lord, ie. not in an incendiary community.

- Spending time doing hobbies; golf, happy hours,
- Find people like them, potential partners if single, people who benefit career/networking
- degrees/career
- Race cars; hobbies and food and travel and rent
- They care about their comfort, happiness, security
- “sunday-goers” ; attend church based on their own comfort level, religious attendance; go to where friends go; “routine without passion”; no involvement
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- Not attend church, perhaps not kept the faith, living a materialistic life, worldly-successful, perhaps famous
- Raised children based on popular/cultural norms;
- Change in religious/philosophical beliefs
- Perhaps no change from 25 years ago
- Focus on retirement, comfort, security, materialism, status, family/grandchildren

Story #2 – Same 5 are part of an incendiary community.

- Prayer meetings, worship, quiet time together, fellowship, spiritually investing in each other, accountability to fight sins, gospel-driven, sacrificial, being excellent at work, -
- evangelizing at work bringing non-Christian coworkers to the gathering; life-long friends, disciples/disciplers, future spouses, people who share the same passion/values/faith, people who don't share the same faith (evangelize!), life-long friendships
- Reading/studying the Bible, order of our desires may be different from story 1 but can seem similar, being excellent at work,
- Tithe, donate/support missionaries, use and spend for God's glory,
- Fellowship, fun, laughter/memories, working out salvation,
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- Probably less regret/ more contentment / more grateful
- Discipling lifestyle - sharing wisdom/testimony with younger Christians - mentorship
- John Piper- Don't waste your life
- Pay for children's education, giving/donating/supporting ministries; beyond tithe
- Investing wisely for future
- Missions work
- Read the Bible 50x / doing the best he/she can!
- Care - facing death - parents/friends/family members - less fear of death, more eternal understanding, care about lost souls - passionate about evangelism
- Gospel-centered legacy for children/grandchildren

- a. Doctor Janet
- b. Teacher: Mr. Mark
- c. Business: Tony
- d. Server: Sally
- e. Full time Minister Flower

Story #1 - Pro incendiary (Unifying, Cohesion)

- + Attend church and be involved
- + Sally and Mark end up falling in love
- Their kids grow up to be close friends.
- More intentional with seeing each other
- Get/give advice through lens of Christ
- Focus remains on who they are people vice their professional status
- Try to meet others for fun but with clearer purpose
- More space for checking in on what's going on with each other...event when 'nothing can be done'; able to pray and be still with you
- Ministry worker friend would be able to be more open and supported

Story #2 (More conflicts, difficult for long-term)

- Initially attend church together, but business gets in the way. Only Minister Flower attends weekly; the others come on holidays and stay for the coffee. Tony always complains about the donut and coffee selection.
- Tony and Dr. Janet blow each other off more easily for plans
- Sally & Tony: Socioeconomic hierarchy lead to an awkward power dynamic
- Meet others "just to have fun"...less purposeful
- Dr. Janet and Mr. Mark: End up acknowledging that tough life events suck, but can't do more than commiserate
- Minister Flower would pour into the group, but over time this would be tiring since the calling isn't shared
- In the end, only some would stay together

Group 3

Story #1

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dqOK_kN0CexmEjWnTRTPmFX1Z2lecEbdbjs6MjrQN70/edit#gid=0

(First sheet)

Story #2

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dqOK_kN0CexmEjWnTRTPmFX1Z2lecEbdbjs6MjrQN70/edit#gid=73400454

(Second sheet)

Group 4

#1 (Not incendiary)

Doctor - Married, 1 Kid, less time for family

Teacher - hard time keeping in touch, not married, overwhelmed with school, students become kids, wouldn't want to do online stuff outside of school. Still at church, doesn't necessarily participate much.

Business - Not married, has girl/boyfriend. Too much work travel, doesn't go to home church on weekends.

Flaunts money, donates loudly. Eventually quits business world to seek meaning.

Server - no kids. Aren't able to make church events during nights, etc. Becomes 'sunday only'. Lonely, eventually moves away and is not in touch with group. Feels out of place.

Ministry - Still serving, but burnt out. Discouraged.

Jaded. Feels like ministry is more of an obligation, people have higher expectations for what they do & serve. Just the 'minister'. Financially struggle

Shared themes: distant and not close|
focusing on themselves

#2 (Incendiary)

Doctor - 4 kids, intentional time at church

Teacher - Serves at church in kids/youth ministry, close parent friends (like the A/C/D/E)

Business - Married. donates without announcing, supports the church. Probably outgoing/ does outreach. Connects with people, gives seminar. FIRE, planning for overseas missions.

Server - embraced by group, more vulnerable. Visits people during lunch, helps people during off hours.

Ministry - well supported, part of the group. Can be him/herself and feel like a peer among this group.

Shared themes: remain close, help each other out. focusing on each other

Group 5

Non incendiary group:

- On what have they spent their time?
- Working to pay for rent. Less leisure \$
- Who are they hoping to meet along the way?
- Hoping to meet similar peers to progress
- What are their life achievements?
- Free time spent on amusements; work hard play hard mentality
- Family focus?
- What did they do with their money?
- Investment strategy
- What do they care about the most?
- Living a life of virtue?
- Consider - family, work, community, church involvement
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Incendiary group:

Once upon a time there was a community group.

- On what have they spent their time?
- Attribute their achievements to God
- Who are they hoping to meet along the way?
- Seeking deep relationships; meet people who they can invest in. Friend in discipleship. Do ministry with one another. Reaching out to diverse groups. Not staying in an echo chamber.
- What are their life achievements?
- Led people to Christ. Not putting their whole identity and worth on worldly achievements.
- What did they do with their money?
- What do they care about the most?
- Consider - family, work, community, church

Group 6

Story #1

- On what have they spent their time?
 - Career, earthly goals, hobbies, netflix, Not in scripture, not putting time for spiritual life, Kids activities, Taking care of me..., compartmentalized
- Who are they hoping to meet along the way?
 - People that will help with their career
- What are their life achievements?
 - Worldly achievements, getting a house, raising kids, switched careers, trying different things but not feeling fulfilled
- What did they do with their money?
 - A lot of kids activities, grandkids, invested in other businesses, paid off med school debt
- What do they care about the most?
 - Image, prestige, YOLO life, instagram likes, perception
- Consider - family, work, community, church involvement
 - When hardships come, they might turn away
 - When things are going well, they might look okay

- On what have they spent their time?
 - May look very similar on the outside, More time on prayer, bible study, serving, Deeper relationships and friendships with the community
 - discipleship , accountability

Who are they hoping to meet along the way?

- Hopefully similar people, people that are on fire for the Lord, people with similar values, also meet people that are very different (mission trips, etc)

What are their life achievements?

- Legacy of people that they have discipled, mentored, impacted a lot of people, may not just evolve around the career/ material wealth; you may never know your impact bc it is hidden for the most part;; they may not even need the recognition; don't need the validation

What did they do with their money?

- Towards the betterment of other people, not on self, missions, donation, hospitality, pay off medical debt, have faith that God will provide

What do they care about the most?

- Wellbeing of each other, spiritual health, focused on quiet time with God, relationship with God, glorifying God, be better at balancing Martha and Mary

- Consider - family, work, community, church involvement

Group 7 -

- On what have they spent their time?
- Who are they hoping to meet along the way?
- What are their life achievements?
- What did they do with their money?
- What do they care about the most?
- Consider - family, work, community, church involvement

Story #1 [EVERYONE ON THEIR PHONES]

a. Doctor recently joining a group practice in San Diego - concerned about paying off med school debt. **Dr. Marcus cares about the well-being of themselves / family. With their money, spend it on comfort level and education level - optimize / elevate for their family.**

b. Teacher in San Dieguito Unified School District - overwhelmed with online education stress. **Harris. Drinks a lot. Long day dealing with children - especially COVID. Thinking about career change. They are helping people - but not connected with the Gospel.**

c. Business person working downtown San Diego enjoying not having to be as frugal as in college. **Chad. For the GRAM! He has all his Pelotons.**

Story #2 [CONSISTENT ACCOUNTABILITY; BECOMES CARING AND PRAYING COMMUNITY]

a. Doctor recently joining a group practice in San Diego - concerned about paying off med school debt. **Dr. Aurelius. Care less about income, more about relationships.**

b. Teacher in San Dieguito Unified School District - overwhelmed with online education stress. **Joe.**

c. Business person working downtown San Diego enjoying not having to be as frugal as in college. **Monica. Caring about other people helps out the doctor early in with investments. When they go out to community so helps the doctor really join in even though they don't have enough money.**

Group 8

Group of friends meets for reunions, Easter parties and Christmas celebrations. There is unresolved tension between certain members of the friend group because they are consumed with their own lives. Christian relationships aren't the focus of their lives anymore, more focused on their individual productivity, possible failing marital relationships.

- *The doctor is wealthy and lots of white hairs to go along with the money. Well respected within her community, but family life is suffering. Needs time off on Sunday, so doesn't go to church often.*

Incendiary:

They are intentional with each other throughout the 25 years passed. They check up on each other and they all tried to pursue families but kept each other accountable and grounded in the Word through community groups and ministry.

Despite occupational stresses they refused to compromise intentional time in the Word. God continued to be a priority in their lives. Some of them have possibly changed their professions through a better understanding of their gifts. Business person becomes more frugal, a couple of them get married? Ministry worked becomes a full time missionary.

- \$\$\$: Doctor might choose a practice that is less, so not a plastic surgeon but pediatrics or working with needy populations.