



What does faithfulness look like in your context during this season?

This tool will help you move beyond surface answers and quick fixes to examine what is bubbling in the substructure of your community, beginning a process of discovery of what is shaping people AWAY FROM, or INTO participation in God's kingdom.

Where does this process start?

It all begins with **holy curiosity...** about the intersection of the Spirit's work and the concrete, embodied challenges presently unfolding in the life of your congregation.

How to use this resource:

1. **Plan to spend a half day contemplating the 4 questions on the next pages, alone or with a small group of fellow leaders.** Invite the Spirit to be with you on this journey of holy curiosity. If a question doesn't make sense or nothing comes to mind, skip it and keep going. Don't judge your answers as right or wrong, good or bad. Simply pay attention and jot down what you notice.
2. **Take some time to debrief and discuss your responses.** Take note of larger themes, patterns. Are any responses surprising? Why? Distill one or two main observations that seem significant for this moment.
3. **Plan a new experiment or practice.** How might what you've discovered shape or reshape how your congregation joins in God's mission or cultivates spiritual formation? In response, make a plan to experiment with one new or adapted practice for the next month.
4. **Contact Gravity Congregational Transformation** to explore options for how we can help you press further into the intersection of the Spirit's work and the concrete realities of your congregation.

On the next two pages are **the 4 diagnostic questions** we've designed to serve as a trellis on which holy curiosity can begin to take shape and grow into new life in your congregation.



(1) The Disorientation Question

We believe that places of disorientation are neither barriers nor distractions to the “real” work; rather, Jesus is presently working in and through disorientation. The real work begins there, where Jesus is.

Example: John 21:1-19, notice how Jesus meets the apostles, especially Peter, amidst failure and confusion and calls him into a new work.

- Where do you notice places of confusion and frustration in your leadership? In others on your staff? In other persons in your congregation?
- Where do you long for change but feel stuck?
- Where have you or members of your congregation reached the limit of your imagination for newness? How do you know?
- Where is the biggest gap between your stated vision/values and the functional beliefs and actual habits of your congregation?

(2) The Unraveling Question

When deeply held assumptions about reality no longer make sense, or old practices stop working, we call these places of “unraveling.” We believe that the Spirit is at work amidst unraveling in our life, shaking loose decay and making room for new life to take root and grow.

Example: Acts 9 - notice how Saul/Paul’s deeply held assumptions about God and Law came unraveled when encountering the resurrected Christ, leading to a transformed life and new mission.

- What are the places of social, political, or cultural unraveling that persons in your congregation are experiencing?
- What are the places of spiritual or religious unraveling?
- What stories or metaphors shape how persons in your congregations understand themselves and what it means to be human?
- What stories or metaphors shape how persons in your congregation understand what it means to be the church?



(3) The Heliotropic Question (*adj. “turning or growing toward the light”*)

We believe Spirit-attentiveness means looking for the generative forces at work in a community, not only the problems; just as some plants lean their flower toward the sun, we also orient attention to sources of life.

Example: Ephesians 1:15-23 - notice how Paul focuses the Ephesian congregation’s attention on how God is already working love and new life in their midst.

- What corporate memories are most sacred to your community?
- Where do you notice life-giving forces or sources of energy presently at work in your congregation?
- What are the unexpected or surprising places of joy and hope?

(4) The Margins Question

We believe that new life is found most often on the edges, margins and behind the scenes of a community, not only through official channels and formal leadership structures.

Example: Luke 14:7-24 - notice how Jesus situates the inbreaking of God’s kingdom among those who are least on the social-religious order.

- What individuals or groups tend to float on the edges of your community? Why do you think that is?
- What do you notice about the habits and assumptions of persons in your congregation who are not part of official leadership structures?
- What part of your official vision/values to people seem most often to miss? What part of your vision/values are people most drawn to?

We hope these questions stir your imagination for what God is doing in your congregation. If you’d like to engage the questions on a deeper level and map out next steps, Gravity Congregational Transformation is your ideal partner. **Contact Seth Richardson at seth@gravityleadership.com for a free consultation.**