



BUILDING SPIRITUAL HOMES
LIVING *our values* **TOGETHER**

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FOREWORD

You've probably already experienced this: You're watching a movie and have had to - if not bawl - then at least stifle a tear. In fact, the moving picture leaves a strong impression on us. The saying "a picture is worth a thousand words" illustrates the experience that we are generally moved more by what we see than by what we read or hear. Complex matters are thus easier to understand with a story, a picture or a film than just a text.

This is the reason why, with a clear film language and simple metaphors, we have processed central aspects of the iCOR values in short videos. The iCOR videos use everyday situations that exemplify biblical content, our mission, and living together in the church. However, video clips can easily lead to superficial consumption.

The iCOR video clips are intended to stimulate an animated discussion in the church about biblical values. This is the reason for this Discussion Guide. The text accompanies the picture. The Discussion Guide promotes the conscious handling of the video clips and offers additional impulses as well as discussion questions in order to think together about value-based and intergenerational living in God's church here and now. It is about the holistically lived discipleship and faith community as authentic witness of the love of God. That's why Jesus sent us into the world.

Stephan Sigg,

iCOR Initiative Developer and Former Youth Department Director, Inter-European Division

HOW IT WORKS!

In this Discussion Guide you will find conversation guidelines for each of the ten iCOR videos. The idea is that the values in the iCOR videos are developed with the aid of these discussion guidelines. It's best to meet as a small group and hold a meeting for each iCOR video. In-between the ten meetings, we recommend that each participant uses the *iCOR Study Guide* for further study.

At each group meeting there should be a discussion leader. Ideally, each group member should have their own iCOR Video Discussion Guide so that personal notes and comments can be made.

So, this is how a group meeting should be structured (these explanations are especially important for discussion leaders):

- › Begin each group meeting with prayer
- › At the beginning of each meeting, briefly go back and review the iCOR value of the last meeting (except at the first meeting of course)
- › **MY STATUS**
Here each participant makes a self-reflection. The group leader gives the group a few minutes to allow each participant to rate the statements for themselves.
- › **VIDEO PART 1**
Watch the first part of the iCOR video together and then discuss the questions in the group.
- › **VIDEO PART 2**
Watch the second part of the iCOR video together and then discuss the questions in the group.
- › **OUR VALUE**
Read the value together and then discuss the questions below.

› **OUR WORD**

Now a Bible text will be relevant to the theme which will be discussed. Read it together and discuss the questions.

› **OUR DECISION AND PRACTICE**

Now it becomes relevant and practical to everyday life. This part is about making a decision based on the exchange of ideas. Write this decision statement down. In addition, formulate a concrete goal that is then actually implemented by the whole group. The goal should be in line with the well-known "**SMART**" criteria: It must be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely. In the next group meeting you will discuss the progress in the implementation of the goal or plan.

› **OUR POWER**

Have a prayer session at this point. Just bring everything that has been discussed and agreed upon in prayer before God.

› **GROUP GAME**

For every iCOR group meeting there is also a suggested game. The game can be played at the very end or in between to lighten up the discussion. Care should be taken to ensure that the game considers all age groups where possible. Attention: For some games you will need materials that must be prepared in advance.

› **MY REFLECTION**

Finally, at the end you will find a note that the topic should be explored in more depth until the next meeting, if possible together with someone from the group. Suggestions for personal study can be found in the *iCOR Study Guide*.

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1. CONNECTING

MY STATUS

Indicate below how much the following statements apply to you.

I like to approach people.



I make sure I create a pleasant and friendly environment.



I like to maintain friendships and relationships.



I look for common interests and friends.



I like to mediate between people.



I like to clear obstacles between people.



I prefer to do things together with others rather than alone.



I notice strangers and try to get to know them.



I like being part of a group and doing activities together.



VIDEO PART 1

Watch the first part of the video "Connecting" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ❓ *In your opinion, what is the initial situation between the boy and the girl?
What is expressed here?*
- ❓ *Reflect on the behaviour of the boy, the girl and the man. What do you think about it?
What do you feel about it?*
- ❓ *What similar experiences have you had?*

VIDEO PART 2

Watch the second part of the video impulse "Connecting" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ❓ *How do you feel about the man's reaction to the mobile message? How does this match your idea of "connecting", establishing relationships or community?*
- ❓ *In what ways do you maintain relationships? How would you like to be contacted?*
- ❓ *The boy ran to church in the middle of the night. The logo was brightly lit, but no one was there. How does this scene fit your church reality? What hurdles must people overcome in order to connect with your church?*

OUR VALUE

Read the value "Connecting" together.

God is love, and as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a relational God—and his church should also reflect this nature. Building healthy relationships is one of the most important and urgent tasks of the Christian church. The love lived out among the followers of Jesus is a central characteristic identifying them as belonging to God. It makes their faith authentic. It is fundamentally impossible to love God and ignore one's fellow human beings. Christian fellowship must be built up and lived out; it is more than the mere gathering of several people in the same place to attend a spiritual programme. Connecting churches make conscious efforts to form authentic and loving relationships across generational, cultural and social boundaries and come in contact with people both in and outside the church. This is particularly important for the young people in the church, because it is essential for their spiritual growth that they have relevant relationships not just with their peers, but also with adults.

- ❓ *What do you think about when you read this value description? What appeals to you? What do you see differently?*
- ❓ *Why is it often so difficult to maintain relationships?*
- ❓ *What are strengths and weaknesses of your church when it comes to connecting?*
- ❓ *Formulate the statements of the self-test ("MY STATUS") with regards to your church community (e.g.: My church likes to approach people). Go through the test again and discuss your results.*
- ❓ *Compare your personal results with those of your church. In which areas can you help your church become more relationship-orientated?*

OUR WORD

Read Galatians 3:26-29 together.

- ❓ *How do you experience the fellowship and equality of "being in Christ" in dealing with each other in your church?*
- ❓ *How can you contribute to unity in Christ in your church environment and in your personal life?*

OUR DECISION AND PRACTICE

- Which decision regarding the iCOR value "Connecting" do you want to make as a group today? Put this decision in writing.
- Get creative and discuss how you want to implement your decision in a concrete and practical way. Make sure that your plan meets the **SMART** criteria by being **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**imely. For example: "We will organize a games' night in our church once a month for two hours." Record your plan in writing.

OUR POWER

Finally, take time to pray together for your decision and the success of your practical plan. Pray for the challenge of building healthy relationships as a church and strengthening community and togetherness.

GROUP GAME

*CREATE TOGETHER A POSTER WITH SIGNATURES OF ALL PARTICIPANTS. WRITE THE SHORT VERSION OF THE ICOR VALUE "CONNECT" IN THE CENTRE:
"BE ENCOURAGED TO BUILD AUTHENTIC, LOVING RELATIONSHIPS WHICH
BRIDGE GENERATION BORDERS, AND BE OPEN TO OTHERS!"*

MY REFLECTION

Until next time, reflect on the value "Connecting", if possible with someone from your group. Suggestions can be found in chapter 4 (pg. 46-55) of the *iCOR Study Guide*.

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no text or other markings on the paper.



2. CARING

OUR REVIEW

Think again about the value "Connecting". What have you become aware of in terms of your view on relationships? How are you getting on with your joint decision and the concrete practical implementation?

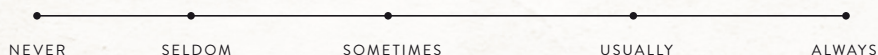
MY STATUS

Indicate below how much the following statements apply to you.

I act quickly when I see someone in need.



I am drawn to people who are injured or in need.



I can sense the emotional state of a group or an individual.



I like helping relieve pain where possible.



I am trustworthy and find it easy to trust others too.



I pray a lot for people who are hurting and have problems.



I strongly support social justice.



I focus more on people's emotional rather than material needs.



I have a distinct ability to show affection.



VIDEO PART 1

Watch the first part of the video "Caring" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- 🔍 Which situation do you think is presented in this scene? What is being expressed here?
- 🔍 Reflect on the behaviour of the church, the woman and the girl. What do you think about it? How do you feel?
- 🔍 What similar experiences have you had?

VIDEO PART 2

Watch the second part of the video "Caring" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ? *How do you feel about the woman's reaction to the girl? How does this match your idea of caring?*
- ? *In a similar situation, how would you wish to be cared for?*
- ? *In the last scene it is suggested that not only does the woman pray for the girl, but at the same time prayer is happening in the church. What role does intercessory prayer play for you, and how do you experience prayer and intercession in your church?*

OUR VALUE

Read the value "Caring" together.

Genuine nurturing care fulfils most of the fundamental human needs. Those who experience that they are loved and accepted develop trust and become more open and receptive. Caring churches take care of their fellow human beings and build a supportive community because they see it as their mission to love as Jesus loved and to bring healing to others. Young people in particular need to experience a loving, caring and supportive faith community. Nurturing care draws people into the mutual responsibility of taking care of each other. It doesn't matter to other people how much good and correct knowledge we have, they need to *experience* it!

Caring churches are committed to supporting those who have been entrusted to them in their spiritual growth so that one day these can say: "This is my church!" Authentic nurturing care includes both prayer and practical help of all kinds. A caring attitude makes churches sensitive to the spiritual and other diverse needs of their fellow human beings.

- ? *What do you think about when you read this value description? What appeals to you? What do you see differently?*
- ? *What could be the reason that a caring community is often so difficult to achieve?*
- ? *What are strengths and weaknesses of your church when it comes to caring?*
- ? *Formulate the statements of the self-test ("MY STATUS") with regards to your church (e.g.: My church helps quickly when...). Go through the test again and discuss your results.*
- ? *Compare your personal results with those of your church. In which areas can you help your church to be more caring?*

OUR WORD

Read James 2:14-16 together.

? *How can a theoretical faith be moved into a deeper level of a caring faith?*

OUR DECISION AND PRACTICE

- What decision regarding the iCOR value "caring" do you want to make as a group today? Put this decision down in writing.
- Get creative and discuss how you want to implement your decision in a concrete and practical way. Make sure that your plan meets the **SMART** criteria by being **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**imely. For example: "We will visit old and sick members of our church for two hours a week." Record your plan in writing.

OUR POWER

Finally, take time to pray together for your decision and the success of your practical plan. Pray for your church and the challenges it faces in caring for one another.

GROUP GAME

BUILD A SUPPORTING COMMUNITY BY STANDING IN A CIRCLE. TURN ALL TO YOUR LEFT AND THEN SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY SIT DOWN ON THE LAP OF THE PERSON BEHIND YOU.

MY REFLECTION

Until next time reflect on the value "Caring", where possible with someone from your group. Suggestions can be found in chapter 5 (pg. 56-65) of the *iCOR Study Guide*.



3. PARTICIPATING

OUR REVIEW

Think again about the value "Caring". What have you become more aware of in terms of caring for one another? How are you getting on with your joint decision and the concrete practical implementation?

MY STATUS

Indicate below how much the following statements apply to you.

I take every person seriously, regardless of age, culture, status, religion or gender.



In a group setting, I make sure that the needs of everyone are taken into account.



I notice outsiders and try to involve them.



During group activities I try to make sure everyone can join in according to their abilities.



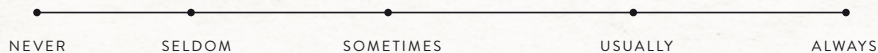
I make sure that the atmosphere is pleasant and motivating for all.



When I think of my local church, I feel like I belong.



In my local church I have the opportunity to contribute and be actively involved.



I identify with the vision and mission of my local church.



My local church takes notice of me and includes me in many activities.



VIDEO PART 1

Watch the first part of the video "Participating" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- 🔍 Which situation do you think is presented in this scene? What is expressed here?
- 🔍 Think of the young man and the child. How does this make you feel?
- 🔍 What similar experiences have you had?

VIDEO PART 2

Watch the second part of the video "Participating" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ? *What observations did you make? How does that match your idea of sharing, involvement and belonging?*
- ? *How is the boy treated here?*
- ? *To what extent does the whole football team benefit from the young teammate?*

OUR VALUE

Read the value "Participating" together.

Helping shape church life strengthens the feeling of belonging and identification with the church and its mission. This is particularly true for young people. They are filled with ideas, opinions and energy, but too often they are not given opportunities to apply these in the church. Studies show that youth consider the church to be relevant, but does the church consider the youth to be relevant? Essentially, a feeling of belonging is fostered where one is included and can make a contribution. With young people in view, the Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership issued the following statement in 2007: "The reasons most frequently cited by persons who leave local church fellowship are found in the realm of relationships, the absence of a sense of belonging, and the lack of meaningful engagement in the local congregation and its mission" (GC Executive Committee, 2007, "Conserving Membership Gain", paragraph 5). Churches would therefore be well-advised to encourage their members, young and old, as well as guests to actively participate in shaping the vision and mission of the church.

- ? *What do you think about when you read this value description? What appeals to you? What do you see differently?*
- ? *What could be the reason for overlooking children and adolescents in particular?*
- ? *When it comes to the topic of 'participating', what are your church's strengths and weaknesses?*
- ? *Formulate the first five statements of the self-test ("MY STATUS") with regards to your church (e.g.: My church takes every person seriously). Go through the whole test again and discuss your results.*
- ? *Compare your personal results with those of your church. How can you be more inclusive and help other church members to feel that they belong?*

OUR WORD

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 together.

- ❓ *Paul describes many differently coordinated body parts, bodily functions and gifts that together form the "body of Christ". Compare these images of the apostle with your church: what would have to happen to make it a reality in your church?*

OUR DECISION AND PRACTICE

- What decision regarding the iCOR value "participating" do you want to make as a group today? Put this down in writing.
- Get creative and discuss how you want to implement your decision in a concrete and practical way. Make sure that your plan meets the **SMART** criteria by being **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**imely. For example: "Once a quarter, we organize a Family Sabbath in which all generations participate." Record your plan in writing.

OUR POWER

Finally, take time to pray together for your decision and the success of your practical plan. Pray for your church and for a sense of belonging amongst its members, children and visitors.

GROUP GAME

NAME AND CONFIRM WITH THE OTHERS IN THE GROUP, ANY SKILLS OR CHRIST-LIKE FEATURES THAT YOU HAVE OBSERVED IN THEM. THEN DRAW YOUR HANDS ON ONE(!) PIECE OF PAPER. EVERYONE WRITES INSIDE THE SHAPE OF "THEIR" HAND SOMETHING THEY CAN DO WELL OR LIKE TO DO.

MY REFLECTION

Until next time, reflect on the topic "Participating", where possible with someone from your group. Suggestions can be found in chapter 6 (pg. 66-75) of the iCOR Study Guide.

NOTES



4. WORSHIPPING

OUR REVIEW

Think again about the value "Participating". What have you become more aware of in terms of getting involved and being allowed to participate in your church? How are you getting on with your joint decision and the concrete practical implementation?

MY STATUS

Indicate below how much the following statements apply to you.

I enjoy spending personal time in Bible study and prayer with God.



During worship service in my church I feel very close to God.



I understand worship and church service above all as a service to others.



When I pray to God, I pay special attention to praise and thanksgiving.



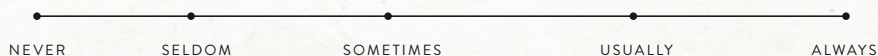
I prefer to worship God in a smaller group.



I pray to God several times a day.



I feel closest to God when I am alone, and nobody disturbs me.



I don't need religious rituals to really worship God.



I am satisfied with the way I worship God.



VIDEO PART 1

Watch the first part of the video "Worshipping" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ① Which different situations do you think are represented in the scenes? What is expressed here?
- ② Think about the scenes between mother and son. Why are they behaving like that? What similar experiences have you had? What feelings does this evoke in you?
- ③ Think about the scenes at the breakfast table and singing songs under the tree. Why do you think adults are reacting like this? How should the story continue?

VIDEO PART 2

Watch the second part of the video "Worshipping" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ? What observations did you make?
- ? In what ways are your ideas of worship and church service reflected in the two scenes shown (living room, church hall)?

OUR VALUE

Read the value "worshipping" together.

Worship is not an event or programme, but a way of life. It trusts that God is present and lets the biblical truth become reality in everyday life. The "children of God" do not just proclaim the Gospel, but also celebrate and live it out wherever they come together. Studies show that experiencing corporate worship, joy and reverence in singing, music, prayer and preaching has a positive effect on the spiritual life of an individual that extends into everyday living. Churches that desire to grow in corporate worship are actively committed to making the Sabbath a meaningful experience and shaping worship in such a way that young people can also make a contribution and feel addressed by the services. "The religious exercises should be so planned and managed that they will be not only profitable, but so pleasant as to be positively attractive" (Ellen G. White, *Testimony Treasures Vol. 2*, p. 440). Corporate worship can be oriented on spiritual needs and concrete situations and purposes. But a loving, joyful and thankful attitude among those celebrating the worship service is more important than individual programme elements.

- ? What do you think about when you read this value description? What appeals to you? What do you see differently?
- ? In the first few centuries, Christians gathered in their homes. How has our worship and our way of worshipping changed?
- ? Where does your church have its strengths concerning the topic of "worshipping", and where its weaknesses?
- ? Take another look at your self-test ("MY STATUS"). Share your answers together.
- ? What would have to happen so that worship in your church is not just limited to the church service, but becomes a practical lifestyle?

OUR WORD

Read Matthew 18:20 together.

- ? *It is neither the place, nor the form of worship, but the authentic and God-oriented community—no matter how small—that opens the space for Jesus' presence. Why does Jesus emphasize this here, and what does that mean for us?*

OUR DECISION AND PRACTICE

- What decision regarding the iCOR value "worshipping" do you want to make as a group today? Put this decision down in writing.
- Get creative and discuss how you want to implement your decision in a concrete and practical way. Make sure that your plan meets the **SMART** criteria by being **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**imely. For example: "After each Bible study we plan 10 minutes for prayer time in the groups." Record your plan in writing.

OUR POWER

Finally, take time to pray together for your decision and the success of your practical plan. Take notice of the areas in which your church is struggling to worship together. Pray specifically for these areas.

GROUP GAME

SHAPE A "PICTURE OF GOD" TOGETHER. YOU'LL NEED A LARGE PIECE OF PAPER. COLLECT CHARACTERISTICS AND SKILLS OF GOD (YOU CAN USE THE BIBLE) AND WRITE THEM DOWN IN DIFFERENT HAND WRITING (OF THE GROUP MEMBERS). HANG YOUR "IMAGE OF GOD" IN A PICTURE FRAME IN YOUR CHURCH.

MY REFLECTION

Until next time reflect on the value "Worshipping", if possible with someone from your group. Suggestions can be found in Chapter 7 (pg. 76-85) of the *iCOR Study Guide*.

NOTES



5. TEACHING

OUR REVIEW

Think again about the value "Worshiping". What have you become more aware of? How are you getting on with your joint decision and the concrete practical implementation?

MY STATUS

Indicate below how much the following statements apply to you.

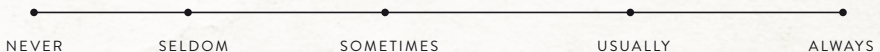
I love studying and researching the Word of God.



Biblical facts are important to me.



I make sure that Bible texts are not taken out of context.



I enjoy the Bible Study in my church.



I have experienced that my life has been changed through Bible Study.



I make sure I apply the relevance of the Word of God to my life.



I like talking to people about the Holy Scriptures.



Bible verses are also very important to me in everyday life.



I enjoy the sermons in my church.



VIDEO PART 1

Watch the first part of the video "Teaching" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ② Which problem, in your opinion, is represented in these scenes? What is expressed here?
- ② Reflect on the preacher, the other "teaching scenes" and the response of the church. What do you think about it? What do you feel about it?
- ② Have you ever experienced something similar?

VIDEO PART 2

Watch the second part of the video "Teaching" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ❓ *How do you feel about the difference to the first part of the video?*
- ❓ *What does successful "teaching" look like to you?*

OUR VALUE

Read the value "Teaching" together.

People are looking for sound biblical teaching and preaching that is relevant for their lives. The "Valuegenesis Europe" (VGE) study shows that preaching that reaches young people is very important for their church experience. When they experience preaching that touches their hearts, they are eight times more likely to stay in the church compared to youth who do not have that experience. Relevant preaching is possible when one is sensitive and open to the realities and spiritual needs in the lives of the people and talk with them about these issues. Because faith in Jesus comes from "hearing" (Romans 10:17), it is essential that Christian values and biblical teachings are communicated in a practical, authentic and creative way and Jesus is kept at the focus. Churches that make this a priority are also more likely to be relevant for guests. However, communicating faith is not limited to the sermon or one-sided preaching in a church context. Equally important are personal conversations and the creative communication of our faith in everyday situations (Deuteronomy 6:6–9).

- ❓ *What do you think about when you read this value description? What appeals to you? What do you see differently?*
- ❓ *Where does your church have its strengths regarding "teaching and proclaiming", where are its weaknesses?*
- ❓ *Formulate the statements of the self-test ("MY STATUS") with regards to your church (e.g.: My church loves studying and researching ...). Go through the whole test again and discuss your results.*
- ❓ *Compare your personal results with those of your church. In what areas can you contribute to an inspiring transmission of faith in the church?*
- ❓ *How can we communicate our faith in everyday life in a relevant and creative way?*

OUR WORD

Read Matthew 28:18-20 together.

- ❓ *Jesus mentions "making disciples" and "teaching to keep everything" separate from each other. Can this be possible? What is the relationship between discipleship and teaching? How can both succeed together in our churches?*

OUR DECISION AND PRACTICE

- What decision regarding the iCOR value "teaching" do you want to make as a group today? Put this decision down in writing.
- Get creative and discuss how you want to implement your decision in a concrete and practical way. Make sure that your plan meets the **SMART** criteria by being **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**imely. For example: "We'll organize a Bible study weekend for all generations twice a year." Record your plan in writing.

OUR POWER

Finally, take time to pray together for your decision and the success of your practical plan. Pray for a new love for God's Word and the motivation to implement His Word in your life in a relevant way.

GROUP GAME 1 OPEN YOUR BIBLE AT YOUR FAVOURITE BIBLE PASSAGE. TAKE THREE MINUTES TO THINK ABOUT THE TEXT AND THEN EXPLAIN TO THE GROUP WHAT THE TEXT MEANS TO YOU.

GROUP GAME 2 SEARCH FOR A BIBLE CHARACTER THAT YOU FIND FASCINATING, BUT DON'T TELL ANYONE WHO IT IS. WHEN EVERYONE HAS CHOSEN, GO AROUND THE GROUP ONE BY ONE WITH EVERYONE ACTING OUT (WITHOUT WORDS) THEIR CHARACTERS. WHEN THE GROUP HAS GUESSED THE CHARACTER IT'S THE NEXT PERSON'S TURN.

MY REFLECTION

Until next time reflect on the value "Teaching", where possible with someone from your group. Suggestions can be found in chapter 8 (pg. 86-95) of the *iCOR Study Guide*.

NOTES



6. SERVING

OUR REVIEW

Think again about the value "Teaching". What have you become more aware of when it comes to conveying the Good News? How are you getting on with your joint decision and the concrete practical implementation?

MY STATUS

Indicate below how much the following statements apply to you.

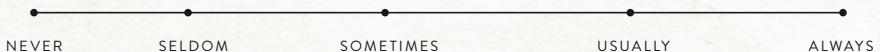
I quickly recognize what needs to be done and then start immediately.



I like to be hospitable, I like to serve others.



I stick with something until the end.



It's difficult for me to say "no" when asked for a favour.



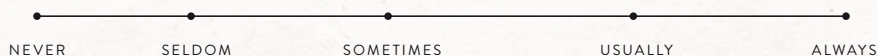
I prefer to meet the needs of others rather than my own.



I show my love more through actions than words.



I tend to do more than is expected of me.



I like to support leaders to help them accomplish their work.



I see the needs of people and like to take care of them.



VIDEO PART 1

Watch the first part of the video "Serving" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ? Which situation do you think is presented in this scene? What is expressed here?
- ? How would you react to the sight of the man at the bin?
- ? What similar experiences have you had?

VIDEO PART 2

Watch the second part of the video "Serving" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ❓ *How do you feel about the group's reaction to the man? Is it realistic?*
- ❓ *If you had to search for recycling bottles in rubbish bins to survive - what help would you be happy about?*

OUR VALUE

Read the value "Serving" together.

"The church is organized for service" (*Education*, 268.6). It is a caring and serving community. When young people are asked what they feel is important for the church to be, many of them say it should make an impact in society. Particularly young people are ready to get involved in meaningful outreach activities that make a difference in the lives of their fellow human beings. Therefore, they should not just be invited to help carry them out, but also be included in developing and planning these activities. Those who are actively involved can better identify themselves with the church and the Adventist faith. Today it is easier for people in the church to invite friends and acquaintances to help in ministries serving the community than just to come to worship services. When church and faith are relevant to society, young and old will also be more willing to talk with their friends and other people about their faith. The life of Jesus demonstrates how much proclaiming the Good News depends on a positive, open and serving attitude towards others.

- ❓ *What comes to mind when you read this value description? What appeals to you? What do you see differently?*
- ❓ *In what ways does your church serve inwardly and outwardly?*
- ❓ *How well does your church succeed in involving all generations in planning and executing missionary services?*
- ❓ *Formulate the statements of the self-test ("MY STATUS") with regard to your church (example: My church quickly realizes that ...). Go through the test again and discuss your results.*
- ❓ *Compare your personal results with those of your church. Which possibilities do you see for you as well as for your church to serve people concretely?*

OUR WORD

Read Matthew 20:25-28 together.

- ❓ *A humble attitude of serving is the prerequisite for heartfelt service as Jesus lived it. Why does true greatness show itself in a serving attitude? What does this mean for us?*

OUR DECISION AND PRACTICE

- 🕒 What decision regarding the iCOR value "serving" do you want to make as a group today? Put this decision down in writing.
- 🕒 Get creative and discuss how you want to implement your decision in a concrete and practical way. Make sure that your plan meets the **SMART** criteria by being **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**imely. For example: "Every three months we offer a multi-course feast for the homeless and people who are not so well off". Record your plan in writing.

OUR POWER

Finally, take time to pray together for your decision and the success of your practical plan. Pray that many in your church will feel called to serve God and become active.

GROUP GAME

CONSIDER AREAS INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF YOUR CHURCH BUILDING, THAT CAN BE ORGANIZED, CLEANED, TIDIED, SORTED OR SIMPLY REPAIRED. WHAT CAN BE DONE QUICKLY IN A JOINT, SPONTANEOUS GROUP ACTION? DO THESE THINGS EVEN TODAY/NOW (!). THERE IS NO NEED TO TELL EVERYONE OF YOUR PLANS. HOWEVER, IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO SPEAK TO YOUR CHURCH LEADERS.

MY REFLECTION

Until next time reflect on the value "Serving", where possible with someone from your group. Suggestions can be found in chapter 9 (pg. 96-105) of the *iCOR Study Guide*.

NOTES



7. RECONCILING

OUR REVIEW

Think again about the value "Serving". What have you become more aware of when it comes to serving people? How are you getting on with your joint decision and its practical implementation?

MY STATUS

Indicate below how much the following statements apply to you.

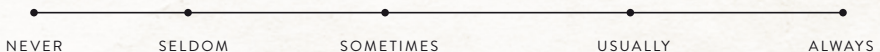
It is easy for me to ask God for forgiveness.



I manage to forgive others.



I gladly and easily accept the forgiveness of Jesus.



I don't hold other people's mistakes or evil deeds against them.



I can forgive myself and be merciful.



I manage to approach others and begin the process of reconciliation.



When I forgive someone, it's "forgotten".



If someone has abused my trust, but we have reconciled, I can trust him again.



I also understand the communion and the foot washing as an opportunity for reconciliation with brothers and sisters in Christ.



VIDEO PART 1

Watch the first part of the video "Reconciling" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- 🔍 Which situation do you think is presented in this scene? What is being expressed here?
- 🔍 Why do you think we argue so often?
- 🔍 How do you find the tension between the two women? Which similar experiences have you had or observed? This topic is very sensitive so try to talk openly but without mentioning names or revealing the identity of specific people.

VIDEO PART 2

Watch the second part of the video "Reconciling" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ❓ *How do you feel about the scene? How does it fit with your idea of reconciliation?*
- ❓ *How would you react if someone came to you during foot washing, in order to reconcile with you in this way?*
- ❓ *How do you experience forgiveness and reconciliation in your life? How do you experience forgiveness, and reconciliation in your church? Speak openly and confidentially about this very personal topic but be careful not to mention names or reveal anyone's identity.*

OUR VALUE

Read the value "Reconciling" together.

Mission work in the "ministry of reconciliation" keeps Jesus at the focus, is respectful towards other people and takes them seriously. As ambassadors of reconciliation, we are 'bridge builders' who, as representatives of Jesus, invite others to be reconciled with God. Under the banner of reconciliation, everything involved in our outreach and evangelization is subordinate to the mission of healing and rebuilding a lost or broken relationship with God and helping people to find their own individual way to connect with our loving Father. Churches committed to the "ministry of reconciliation" are aware of the fact that the invitation to be reconciled with God is only credible when they live out the experience themselves. It's about restoring relationships. Ultimately, mission in the context of reconciliation makes it clear that the Good News is inseparably linked to the messenger and the Gospel as lived out practically in the church. Therefore, all members are called to be ambassadors for Jesus and let the Gospel become a reality in their lives.

- ❓ *What do you think about when you read this value description? What appeals to you? What do you see differently?*
- ❓ *What could be the reason that some people sit for years, side by side in church, without being reconciled?*
- ❓ *Where does your church have its strengths in reconciliation, where its weaknesses?*
- ❓ *Formulate the statements of the self-test ("MY STATUS") again with regards to your church (e.g. : My church finds it easy...). Go through the test again and discuss your thoughts.*
- ❓ *To be reconciled with God and our fellow human beings is the prerequisite for effectively sharing the Good News. How can we work together to heal broken relationships between God and people?*

OUR WORD

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 together.

- ? *As ambassadors of Christ, we are put in the service of reconciliation and we make the call in His place: "Be reconciled to God!" What would it mean for our mission if the message of reconciliation with God were at the centre?*

OUR DECISION AND PRACTICE

- What decision regarding the iCOR value "Reconciling" do you want to make as a group today? Put this decision down in writing.
- Get creative and discuss how you want to implement your decision in a concrete and practical way. Make sure that your plan meets the **SMART** criteria by being **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**imely. For example: "We will organise a whole Sabbath on the topic 'Reconciliation' with a special agape meal as a spiritual highlight." Record your plan in writing.

OUR POWER

Finally, take time to pray together for your decision and the success of your practical plan. Pray that God shows you ways to reconcile with God in the church and with people.

GROUP GAME

EACH OF YOU GETS A PLASTER. ON THIS YOU CAN DRAW, FOR EXAMPLE, A "HEART" OR A "SMILEY FACE", OR EVEN WRITE "COMFORT/CONSOLATION", "MY APOLOGIES!" OR "I'M SORRY!" GIVE AWAY THIS PLASTER WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY COMES.

MY REFLECTION

Until next time reflect on the value "Reconciling ", where possible with someone from your group. Suggestions can be found in chapter 10 (pg. 106-115) of the *iCOR Study Guide*.

NOTES



8. MENTORING

OUR REVIEW

Think again about the value "Reconciling". What have you become more aware of? How are you getting on with your joint decision and its practical implementation?

MY STATUS

Indicate below how much the following statements apply to you.

I have someone who is a role model for me.



I have experienced the support, companionship, motivation and encouragement from an older person.



I never felt/feel alone as a young person in the church.



If I need support, there is someone I can ask for advice.



I seek out contact with children or young people in the church.



I look after one or more young people in the church.



There are children or adolescents who particularly appreciate me.



Children and young people see me as a role model.



I enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience with inexperienced people.



VIDEO PART 1

Watch the first part of the video "Mentoring" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ❓ Which situation do you think is presented in this scene? What is expressed here?
- ❓ What's going on in the boy's head? What does the mentor who is standing behind the boy think?
- ❓ In your opinion, what should happen in this situation?

VIDEO PART 2

Watch the second part of the video "Mentoring" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ? What is your opinion of the mentor's reaction to the boy? How does that match your idea of mentoring?
- ? Did you have similar experiences as a child? How were you supported in overcoming challenges?

OUR VALUE

Read the value "Mentoring" together.

Jesus was a mentor for his disciples, just as Moses was for Joshua and Barnabas for Paul and Mark. Apart from their parents, young people in particular need adults who are relevant in their lives and serve as living role models. Therefore, churches not only foster informal intergenerational relationships, but specifically train mentors to be able to accompany others on their spiritual journey. "The classic definition of mentoring is that of an older experienced guide who is acceptable to the young person and who can help ease the transition to adulthood by a mix of support and challenge. In this sense it is a developmental relationship in which the young person is inducted into the world of adulthood" (Kate Philip, "Mentoring and Young People" in *Encyclopedia of Informal Education*, August 2000). Youth who have relationships with caring adults are less likely to engage in at-risk behaviour, are more self-confident and more likely to help others compared to those who do not have such relationships. Consequently, mentors in the church can help children, teenagers and youth, as well as newly baptized members and interested guests to grow spiritually and master the challenges of life. In the same way, young people can also be mentors for older people.

- ? What do you think about when you read this value description? What appeals to you? What do you see differently?
- ? How do you experience the relationships between children, youth and adults in the church?
- ? How committed is your church to conscious mentoring for children and adolescents?
- ? Formulate, if possible, the statements of the self-test ("MY STATUS") again with regards to your church (e.g.: in the church there is someone who is a role model for me). Go through the test again and discuss your thoughts.
- ? Read again the second to last sentence of the value "Mentoring". How could you in your church improve mentoring for children, teenagers, youth, newly baptized and interested people?

OUR WORD

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1 together.

- ? *Paul looked to Jesus Christ as his mentor. So, Paul wants to be a mentor to the church in Corinth. What qualities or actions of Jesus and Paul show us how a good mentor should be?*

OUR DECISION AND PRACTICE

- What decision regarding the iCOR value "Mentoring" do you want to make as a group today? Put this decision down in writing.
- Get creative and discuss how you want to implement your decision in a concrete and practical way. Make sure that your plan meets the **SMART** criteria by being **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**imely. For example: "Until the next iCOR meeting, each group member chooses a younger person from the church whom he/she would like to mentor." Record your plan in writing.

OUR POWER

Finally, take time to pray together for your decision and the success of your practical plan. Pray that God will show you who you can be a mentor to.

GROUP GAME

SHARE HOW OLDER PEOPLE FROM CHURCH HAVE ACCOMPANIED, EMPOWERED, AND INTERCEEDED FOR YOU IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE. WHAT HIGHLIGHTS AND WHAT DECISIVE SITUATIONS COME TO MIND?

MY REFLECTION

Until next time reflect on the value "Mentoring", where possible with someone from your group. Suggestions can be found in chapter 11 (pg 116-125) of the *iCOR Study Guide*.

NOTES



9. TRAINING

OUR REVIEW

Think again about the value "Mentoring". What have you become more aware of? How are you getting on with your joint decision and its practical implementation?

MY STATUS

Indicate below how much the following statements apply to you.

I like to learn new things.



I'm always looking for ways to educate myself further.



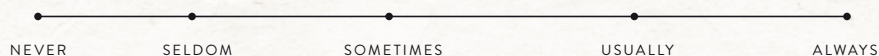
I know my gifts and abilities, but also my areas of improvement.



I serve my church according to my gifts and abilities.



My church supports me in my personal development.



I consciously pay attention to the potential of others.



I motivate and encourage people to develop their gifts and abilities.



I take advantage of the offer for further education in my church.



I consciously share my knowledge and values with others in my church.



VIDEO PART 1

Watch the first part of the video "Training" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ? Which situation do you think is presented in this scene? What is expressed here?
- ? How and why does the girl's motivation change? What role does the gardener play?
- ? What similar experiences have you had?

VIDEO PART 2

Watch the second part of the video "Training" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ? *How do you feel about the gardener's initiative? How does that match your idea of education?*
- ? *How would you wish to be trained or to have been trained?*

OUR VALUE

Read the value "Training" together.

Learning is a fundamental principle of life, and where there is no more learning, there is stagnation. Jesus was respected as a Rabbi, that is, as a teacher, and his disciples can be considered his students. The Greek word for disciple (*mathetes*) comes from the world of education. Followers of Jesus are people in training, and training promotes growth. The real goal in the school of Jesus is actions and not just words and knowledge. Because training empowers people to develop and grow, the church should be a place of learning for all generations. Young people are not the only ones who need structured, continuous education and support in the environment and daily life of the local church. Churches that place great importance on education are therefore committed to providing all members with the opportunity to grow in understanding, improve their individual gifts and continue to develop in service for God. They therefore encourage and support their members in the participation in internal and external training opportunities. The progress of a living community of faith thrives on the awareness that one never stops learning.

- ? *What do you think about when you read this value description? What appeals to you? What do you see differently?*
- ? *How can the church be a "learning place" where more than just knowledge is conveyed?*
- ? *How well does your church implement the value of "training"? How are people in your church empowered and promoted by education and training?*
- ? *Formulate the statements of the self-test ("MY STATUS") with regards to your church (e.g.: In my church I like to learn new things). Go through the test again and discuss your results.*
- ? *Compare your personal results with those of your church. In which areas can you help people in your church to develop, grow, to get training and further education?*

OUR WORD

Read Proverbs 9:8-10 together.

- ❓ What is meant by "fear of the Lord" and "to know the Holy One"?
- ❓ How are these two things connected with "being wise", "learning" and "being educated"?

OUR DECISION AND PRACTICE

- 🕒 What decision regarding the iCOR value "Training" do you want to make as a group today? Put this decision down in writing.
- 🕒 Get creative and discuss how you want to implement your decision in a concrete and practical way. Make sure that your plan meets the **SMART** criteria by being **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**imely. For example: "Before the next meeting we'll research the continuing education options of the Adventist church and suggest a suitable offer to our church at the next opportunity.") Record your plan in writing.

OUR POWER

Finally, take time to pray together for your decision and the success of your practical plan. Pray that God will guide you to know in what area you need training.

GROUP GAME

IN GROUPS OF TWO, CHOOSE A BIBLE TEXT THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU THAT YOU HAVEN'T MEMORISED. TAKE SEVEN MINUTES TO LEARN IT. HELP EACH OTHER TO MEMORISE IT (PROMPT, TEST). THEN RECITE IT IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE GROUP.

MY REFLECTION

Until next time reflect on the topic "Training", where possible with someone from your group. Suggestions can be found in chapter 12 (pg. 126-135) of the *iCOR Study Guide*.

NOTES



10. LEADING

OUR REVIEW

Think again about the value "Training". What have you become more aware of when you think about lifelong learning and personal development? How are you getting on with your joint decision and its practical implementation?

MY STATUS

Indicate below how much the following statements apply to you.

I have a vision for my life (an inner picture, an idea of the future, with strong driving power).



I am automatically the "leader" in group work.



It takes no effort for me to respect and follow people in leadership roles.



I promote people and means to achieve goals and tasks.



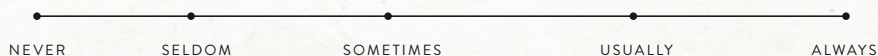
I enjoy working with people and being among people.



It does not bother me to share responsibilities or to hand over the leadership.



I can control myself and stay tactful when things go wrong or I am criticized.



The vision and goals of my church are communicated regularly.



I am perseverant, particularly in view of long-term goals.



VIDEO PART 1

Watch the first part of the video "Leading" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ❓ Which situation do you think is presented in this scene? What is expressed here?
- ❓ Why does the young woman hesitate? How do you feel about the reaction of the man at the flipchart when the teenager answers?
- ❓ Which of these three candidates would you choose, and why?

VIDEO PART 2

Watch the second part of the video "Leading" together, then discuss the situation in the video.

- ? *How do you feel about the election outcome? Is this realistic?*
- ? *What similar experiences have you had?*

OUR VALUE

Read the value "Leading" together.

A strategic and goal-oriented church does not limit its attention to administrative processes. It is much rather intentionally missional and oriented on continued development, progress and growth in all areas. It has or develops a vision and a mission for its local community and is constantly seeking to involve all members—including the youth—in the continuous development, analysis and evaluation of the vision and goals. It constantly reminds all in the church of the vision and actively includes young people in the leadership activities of the church. Just how seriously a church takes its young people is often revealed by how much youth are included at all levels of the leadership processes. When young people take part in the leadership, they will perceive the church as their church and actively shape the activities and the mission of the church. Value-oriented leadership is also marked by continuous and forward-looking consideration of the iCOR values and ways to actively promote and evaluate them in the daily activities of church life.

- ? *What do you think about when you read this value description? What appeals to you? What do you see differently?*
- ? *Do you know the vision and goals of your church? How can clearly communicated visions and goals help fulfil the mission as a church?*
- ? *How well does your church manage to get young people involved in the leadership?*
- ? *Formulate the statements of the self-test ("MY STATUS") with regards to your church (e.g. "My church has a vision"). Go through the test again and discuss your results.*
- ? *Compare your personal results with those of your church. In which areas would you be willing to support your church leadership?*

OUR WORD

Read Exodus 18:21-23 together.

- ? *Jethro gives his son-in-law wise advice for the leadership of the people of Israel. Which principles for good leadership, which qualities for good leaders, can you discover in this section? Discuss your results!*

OUR DECISION AND PRACTICE

- What decision regarding the iCOR value "leadership" do you want to make as a group today? Put this decision down in writing.
- Get creative and discuss how you want to implement your decision in a concrete and practical way. Make sure that your plan meets the **SMART** criteria by being **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**imely. For example: "At the next church election, we plan to propose as many names of our teenagers and young adults under 30 as possible for leadership roles." Record your plan in writing.

OUR POWER

Finally, take time to pray together for your decision and the success of your practical plan. Pray for your church and the challenge of promoting young people especially in the church.

GROUP GAME

JOIN HANDS TOGETHER. EVERYONE - EXCEPT ONE - CLOSSES THEIR EYES. THE PERSON WITH THE OPEN EYES LEADS THE "BLIND" FOR ONE OR TWO MINUTES THROUGH THE ROOM. EVERYBODY GETS TO LEAD THE OTHERS - EVEN THE YOUNGEST TEAM MEMBERS!

MY REFLECTION

Reflect on the value of "leading" until next time, if possible with someone from your group. Suggestions can be found in Chapter 13 (pg. 136-145) of the *iCOR Study Guide*.

NOTES



*"AND HE WILL TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN,
AND THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS."*

Malachi 4:6 (NKJV)



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