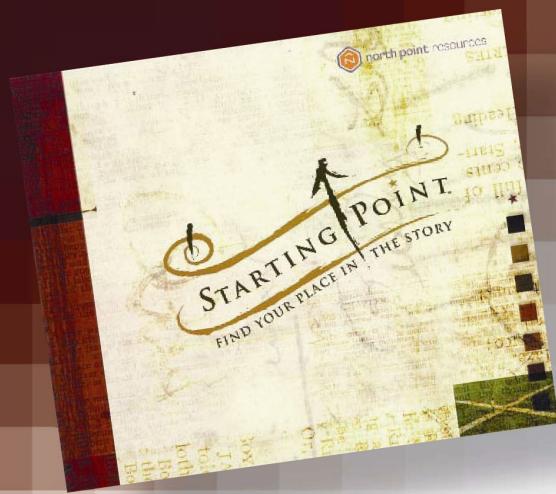


Starting Point

NEXT **STEPS** 



Starting Point

Next Steps...

~ Finding Your Place in God's Story ~

Opening Fellowship/Celebration

What has been your greatest takeaway from your Starting Point experience?

Introduction

Our place in the story of God is to become faithful worshippers of Him as we come to know Him more and serve His purposes in the context of meaningful relationships with others.

PART 1: Growing in Your Knowledge of God

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ Jesus, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.”

~ Philippians 1:9-11

I. Truth is the fuel of our worship

a. The necessity of studying God's Word

Set the time =

Set the place =

Set the plan =

b. Basic Interpretation & Application – 4 questions =

i. What does the passage say?

- 1. What happened?**
- 2. What is being taught?**

ii. What does it mean?

1. *What was the primary lesson/principle God is communicating in this passage?*
2. *How does this compare to other Scripture passages?*
3. *Why did God put this in the Bible?*

c. How does this truth apply to a specific area(s) of my life? (marriage, children, work, friendships, ministry, personal devotion)

d. How do I remember this truth & its application?

II. Remember it is a dialogue...

- a. Prayer is just as integral as our study of God's Word, because it is through prayer that God makes the truths of His Word become real in our lives.
- b. The purpose of prayer
 - i. To grow in our trust in and dependence on God
 - ii. To have deeper fellowship with God
 - iii. To be a part of God's Kingdom work

"I don't pray to change God's heart, I pray to change my heart."
– C. S. Lewis

Suggested books for further study of the Spiritual :

1. Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster
2. Sacred Pathways, Gary Thomas
3. Personal Bible Study Methods, Rick Warren
4. 30 Days to Understanding the Bible, Max Anders

PART 2: Serving God's Kingdom

- * *Discover Your Design...* contact Chad Melton at cmelton@pleasantvalley.org for more information about 2009 offerings of DYD and current ministry opportunities.
- * GO - Missions ministry to the world. Contact Debbie Collin at dcollins@pleasantvalley.org for more information on opportunities, and steps necessary to get involved.

PART 3: Connecting to a Christian Community

When we give our lives to Christ, it is an intensely, personal commitment. But our personal commitment to Christ is carried out and matured in the context of relationships with other people.

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

~ 1 John 4:7-12

Spiritual growth simply does not take place in a vacuum. God created us in His image, as relational beings, therefore it is no wonder that our likeness to Him is reflected most in how we relate to and interact with others.

The Community Group I will try as my “next step”:
