

Background - Vox's Values

<Provide some context on why we're talking about Vox's Values.>

We are in the middle of a sermon series exploring the values of Vox. These values are meant to describe who we are in this season and who we hope to be as a community and individuals. They have risen to the surface over the course of our journey as a church. It is from these values of who we are, that should shape what we do and how we live. Vox's values include: Artistry, Posture, Empathy, Participation, Peculiarity and Mystery.

Participation: Session 4 Objectives

Send out the link to the sermon podcast to your group ahead of time so everyone can get a chance to listen to the sermon on Participation.

- <http://voxveniae.com/participation-2/>

These objectives might be helpful in shaping and guiding the discussion to a healthy landing spot by the end of the night.

- Reflect on how we're invited into collaboration with God and community
- Identify ways to participate personally and as a midweek group in the Vox community

Value of Participation

Introduce the value statement of Participation and if it's helpful for your group, reflect on the Scripture passage in 1 Corinthians 12.

Read/Reflect on 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

15 Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Reflection on Participation

Spend some time reflecting on the value of Participation. This can be a time to reflect on the value statement, Scripture passage and sermon podcast.

1. How does the value of Participation connect or not connect with you?
2. How have you experienced or seen this value demonstrated in the Vox community? If not, where have you experience it?
3. Was there anything that stood out for you in the sermon?

Read the value statement for Participation to the group.

Participation. We live in a culture where being in a church means shopping and consuming community. We invite you into a beautiful alternative, Liturgy, which means "the work of the people." Find your plot of the garden within the community and the world we live in and get your hands dirty. We welcome you as co-creators to become the hands and feet of Christ. Cultivate your soul, help us hold space for the spiritual journey of others, and lean into the literal call to care for and serve the earth we belong to.

Challenges and Invitation to Participation

Many of those who have grown up in a church setting may have had unhealthy experiences or expectations of serving. Some may have experienced burnout and have a negative reaction to being asked to participate. While we do want to honor boundaries, we also want to find healthy ways to move people towards participation and investing who they are in the community they are collaborating and partnering with.

4. What has been challenging about participation in past experiences?

e.g. Burnout, no boundaries, afraid of commitment, self-disqualification

5. What have been some healthy experiences of participation? What might healthy expectations and boundaries look like?

Participation at Vox

Take some time to explore different ways to participate at Vox. There are individual ways to serve based on your gifts and interests. As a group, you can also spend time discussing what you can do together as a midweek group.

5. EXERCISE: Signup to Get Involved

Fill out the online form to see different areas of participation in the Vox community

*Access the form through your phone or computer by going to:
<http://bit.ly/VoxSignups>*

There will be a short description of each of the different opportunities and roles that are available to participate through

6. Reflect on possible opportunities to serve and participate together as a group

Explore what is unique about the mix of your group and reflect on your collective strengths and interests. Some examples of serving together as a group might include: serving communion the same Sunday, signing up for Greenhouse, volunteering at Inside Books Project together one night, etc).

Practice (Application)

Spend the remaining time reflecting on personal practice and what it means to discover and utilize your strengths and gifts in the context of community.

6. What is an area or opportunity where you can practice and express the value of Participation? *(How does your Enneagram type impact your ability to practice Participation?)*

7. In what ways can Vox continue to foster and facilitate this value?

Prayer

Close your time in prayer for any reflections that came from this time of dialogue and also allow space for any personal areas that require care.

Appendix - Other Resources

Vox Sermon Podcast

- Vox Podcast - Values: Participation (Liz Schepel)
 - <http://voxveniae.com/participation-2/>
- Sermon Content
 - 1. All parts of the body are necessarily different (v12-14)
 - Instead of managing diversity, it should be by design to be different
 - Constantly changing makeup of our community - no moment in history will be the same
 - Practice - signup to be involved
 - 2. All parts of the body matter (v15-16)
 - All parts need to believe themselves that they matter
 - How do we disqualify ourselves? (we think we don't have the right credentials)
 - Exercise of grace with self and everyone around you
 - Practice - notice when we pull back and self-disqualify
 - 3. All parts of the body depend on the inclusion of weakness (v21-25)
 - Weakness is what makes the body strong (instead of you're only as strong as your weakest link)
 - Vulnerability is independence
 - What keeps us from weakness? - permission to be quiet, listen, be sad, rest (vulnerable)
 - Reflection Questions
 - In what ways do I limit participation because of my perceived weakness?
 - What is one thing I can uniquely do, contribute or share with the community this month?
 - In what ways do I withdraw from others? How would it look or feel different in this moment if I truly believe I matter to the other person?
 - Resources
 - [Vox Get Involved Signup Form](#)
 - Video: [Chef's Table- Enrique Olvera](#)

Optional Exercises/Activities

- Exercise
 - [Vox Get Involved Signup Form](#)