



**GUIDE:**

- CHECK-INS: Introductions, check-in
- CARE: Needs in the group
- COMPASSION: What is the group planning? Are you inviting neighbours to join in?
- GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS Church-wide and group-only
- DIG IN: "Ice-breaker" question (group facilitator), discuss questions as a group
- PRAYER: Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- Reread the key Bible passages. Do some initial reflection.
- Watch video in your Home Church: Baker #1 (HC leaders have access)
  
- Fuzzy Set: A fuzzy group is similar to a bounded group, but the boundary line is removed—or at least less clear. The grounds for distinction are rather vague, and so the group is fuzzy.
- Bounded Set: A bounded group creates a list of essential characteristics that determine whether a person belongs to that group or not. Anyone who meets the requirements is considered "in." The group has a clear boundary line that is static and allows for a uniform definition of those who are within the group.

1. What did you think and feel as you listened to my story of line-drawing?
2. What did you think and feel as you listened to Dustin's story of fuzziness?
3. Based on our stories and your own experiences, list negative aspects of both approaches.

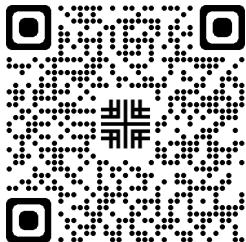
We continue our Telos Series on being focused on the centre or the ends. Groups of people connect and relate in three basic ways: Bounded, Fuzzy, and Centred. In the New Testament, the churches are called again and again to reject all but one way of being together. As we build on the first two messages in this series, we will look at the difference between healthy and unhealthy use of guidelines (commands, rules, etc.) and why we tend to revert to non-Jesuy ways of being together.

*Luke 18:9-14 ; Gal 3:28, 2:14-16, 6:15; Revelation 22:17*

**TWO STORIES**

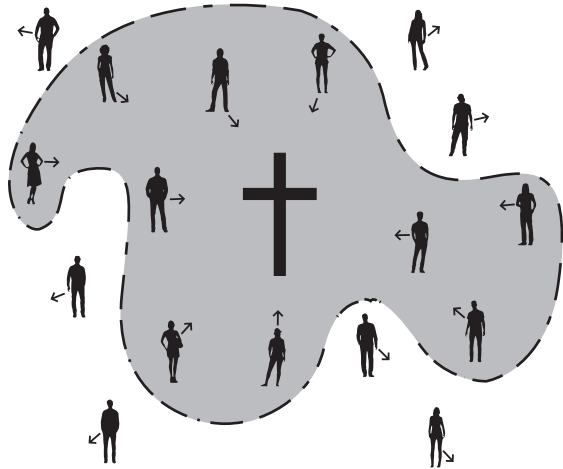
**Review: Three Ways to Be Community**

1. Bounded-Set
2. Fuzzy
3. Centered-Set
  - John Hau Graphic
  - Two types of change (Centered church)
    1. Directional: Is someone facing the center or oriented the other direction? Conversion happens when someone turns towards the center.
      - a. A Fuzzy church story - extreme Western individualism.
    2. Movement towards the center: The second change relates to the movement towards the center. Movement varies because members do not move at the same pace. The group is unified by the first change because everyone is oriented towards Jesus Christ. However, they are not uniform because the characteristics of the various members will differ due to varying distance from the center.



**CONNECT**

- Need Prayer?
- Ask Questions
- Get information
- Make Comments
- Meet with Pastor Shel
- Sign-up for our weekly e-newsletter
- Join a Home Church



- Centered-set church: allows for sincere and deep relationship
  - Romans 14, Paul's response to what foods we can eat, shows us that unity is not found in agreement on all the particulars but in the direction of the actions and convictions.
- Bounded Church: focuses on which "foods are on the list" and which foods are off the list
- Fuzzy Church: Tolerance but only partial love and idolizes individualism

*Galatians 2:14* But when I saw that they were not behaving consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "If you, although you are a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you try to force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

#### **STORY: Applying Centre-Set to Serving in the Church**

- Advantage: Dealing with tension better

#### **THE CENTER MATTERS**

- What game are we playing?
- invitational, hospitable
- not fuzzy
- not universally inclusive
- has a center
- relationship to the center matters
- "curious or captivated by Christ"

#### **STORY: A Merger**

#### **From Judgmentalism of people to judgment that is discernment and evaluation.**

- Stories, space, nuance, tension, complexity
- There is a place for
  - boundaries that communicate responsibility, freedom, safety, and value.
  - standards
  - a type of boundary mindset to describe healthy and unhealthy, toxic and non-toxic
  - but not the main focus

**Luke 18 Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector.** The tax collector is concerned about where he stands with God. The Pharisee is defining himself by the boundaries being violated by the tax collector.

**Stuart Murray** "Churches with healthy centers are secure enough to welcome those who are exploring faith and searching for authenticity. They are relaxed, non-judgmental communities where questions, doubts, dissent, and fears can be expressed, and where ethical issues do not preclude acceptance. They are inclusive without compromising, communities with deep convictions that are nevertheless open to fresh insights, churches that allow and encourage critical engagement with beliefs and behavior but test everything by its congruence with their founding story." (CSC, 55).

#### **LANDING/NEXT STEPS**

- Rules are easy. Rules that build relationships and create space for change, is a more challenging task.
- Are you pointed towards Love, that is to say, Jesus?
- Where have you excluded (possibly motivated by good desire, but actually harming) the great commission of Jesus?
- What Biblical work do we need to do to detoxify our approach to others, self, and church?