PROSPER THE CITY

WEEK 3 – HOW

<u>ABOUT WEEK 3</u>

In Week 3 of Prosper the City, your team will finalize the HOWs for your project. You'll make sure everyone has a role and responsibility, as well as thinking through any backup plans.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Easel Pad or White Board
- Markers (be sure to use the proper kind for the surface you're writing on!)
- Pens/Markers for the group to use
- Last week's HOW sheets
- Waste paper basket or something similar
- Wadded up pieces of paper, or small balls that can be used to shoot baskets

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR TEAM ARRIVES

- o Pray for the meeting
- o Print this discussion guide
- o Have refreshments ready and the environment set
- o Put on some music to create energy for the first arriver
- o **Put the HOW sheets from last week up on the wall**

OPENING (1 MIN)

Say: **Last week we flew through a lot of details! We tackled the WHAT, WHERE & WHEN of our Prosper the City project before jumping into some of the HOW planning. Today, we'll finalize the HOW planning as we get ready to serve! But before we do, let's start off with another activity.**

ICEBREAKER (10 MIN)

Set up the waste paper basket in the middle of the room, and give everyone a wadded-up piece of paper or a small ball.

Say: **Who thinks they're a pretty good shot? And who thinks they'll miss?**

After the members answer, tell them to try it, one by one, to see who makes the basket from their seat. Take note of who said they'd make/miss and if they did or not.

Then say: **When you're competent at something, it can make you overconfident sometimes. Overconfidence is something we have to watch out for. Now let's try this again, everyone get your "balls" back and this time, I want you to try to shoot with one eye closed**.

Take note of how the results may or may not have changed. Feel free to lovingly trash talk each other.

Then say: **For most people, with one eye closed, it's harder to judge the depth of something. As we enter our project, we want to do it with our eyes wide open, working as a team, and with lots of humility, so that we don't misjudge the people or the needs we're serving.**

OPTIONAL IF TIME, Have the group members share a time when they misjudged a situation or a person. Talk about what contributed to that misjudgment.

SCRIPTURE & QUESTIONS (10 MIN)

Say: **Let's see what wisdom the Bible can give us as we move our project forward this week. We're going look at two gospel stories and then discuss briefly**

Have someone read each of the following verses:

- Luke 7:36-50
- Matthew 15:21-28

After reading both, ask these questions:

1) Both of these readings dealt with humans who were misjudging situations and people. What do you think contributed to their error in each account?
2) In these accounts, women were the ones being misjudged (in addition to Jesus), what do you think the significance of that is, if any?
3) What does this tell us about GOD?
4) How does this guide us as we think about OUR PROJECT?

PRAYER (1 MIN)

Say: **Now let's dive in! But first let's pray!**

Pray a brief prayer, asking God to bless, guide, and be present in your time together.

REVIEWING THE HOW (15 MIN)

Refer the team to the HOW sheet on the wall and refresh everyone on the roles for the project.

Say: **Can we get an update for all of the time-sensitive items that we need to take care of before we met this week?**

After updates, ask:

Do you have any updates for any of the other tasks for this project?

After updates, ask:

Are there any loose ends in those categories that we need to finalize? Does everyone have a role? Let's think through some worse-case scenarios. How does our project need to adjust?

Finally, let's look one last time at the schedule.

Review the schedule with the team.

Any final questions?

CLOSING PRAYER & ANNOUNCEMENTS (1 MIN)

Say: **Great job, everyone! Let's close today out with a prayer.**

Before we pray, are there any prayer requests you have that we can include in today's closing prayer?

After prayer requests are shared, say: **Will you pray with me?** Close the meeting with prayer. If there are any announcements, you may give them here.