# Prosper the City

## Returning Groups Version

Intro: This is a rough overview of an adapted curriculum to be used for Prosper the City (PTC) by groups who have done it together before. While there could be a couple new additions to the group, this should only be used BY veteran PTC groups who have previously served together.

## WEEK 1 - REFLECT

ABOUT WEEK 1

In Week 1 of *Prosper the City* for returning groups, your team will reflect on what you did last year and how things are different this year. You'll make a critical decision to either repeat your project from last year (with adjustments and improvements) or to start over with a whole new project!

**ITEMS NEEDED**

- Easel Pad or White Board
- Colored Post-It Notes- at least three distinct colors
- Markers (be sure to use the proper kind for the surface you're writing on!)
- Pens/Markers for the group to use

**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

**OPENING (10 MIN)**

Say: **First, let's go around the group and introduce ourselves along with a "little known fact" about ourselves.**

*After activity is finished, then say:*

**Thank you for sharing. This is a great group! Now to get us started, let's talk about stories. Who doesn't love a great story? Building a storyline is one of the oldest and most fun ways to have a good laugh! Not only that, but we'll get to practice bringing together each of our contributions to create something. Even if that thing is a little crazy.**

**So, I will start the story with an opening sentence, but before I finish that sentence, I'll intentionally leave it hanging, unfinished. At that time, I'll hand it off to the person to my left and they'll finish my**

**incomplete sentence and then start a new sentence that they'll also leave incomplete for the person on _their_ left to complete…. and so on. Let's try to make it a couple rounds and see where this story goes!**

(ex. of an opening sentence) Once upon a time, in an enchanted forest, there lived a very powerful…. (leave for the next person to complete. Then she/he adds their next sentence, which they'll also leave hanging.

### SCRIPTURE & QUESTIONS (7 MIN)

Have someone read Deuteronomy 32:7.

- **Why do you think remembering and retelling are so important for God's people?**
- **What makes the difference between being able to look back and feel positively about the past and to look back and feel regret?**

Now read James 1:22-24.

- **Although it's addressing a slightly different subject matter. What does this add to our work today?**

### REFLECTION (15 MIN)

 Say: **Now we're going to take a moment to refresh ourselves on the GROUP'S PROJECT last year. (Tell the story and pass around pics of last year's project). Now let's talk about what went well and what didn't go as expected.**

_Write down a list of "learnings," or bring out a list you might have made last year._

Say: **Now let's go a step further to think about how THINGS HAVE CHANGED. Let's talk about:**

- **How might our world be different this year?**
- **What has changed in the world's landscape that, if true last year, would've changed the way we approached our project?**
- **What is different about YOU this year (as individuals or families)? What major circumstances have changed? How have you changed? _Scrolling through your camera roll may help you._**

_Write down any helpful responses. Note what's both joyful and sad about those changes._

_Captains, don't forget to take pictures of your team at this point and upload them to pathfinderstl.org/prosper/upload_

**DECIDE (15 MIN-20 MIN)**

Say: **Reflecting on everything that happened last year and OVER the last year, does it make sense to repeat a similar project or is it time to start new?**

- Divide the team up into two camps to debate the issue of repeating last year's project or starting from scratch. Like all true debaters, you don't have to agree with your own position, just state the pros of your side.
- After a time of adequate debate (watch out for those who aren't speaking up and invite them to contribute), move to a vote.
- Pass out a POST-IT note to everyone to be used as a silent ballot. On it they should write "REPEAT" or "NEW" depending on whether they want to REPEAT last year's project (with minor variations and improvements) or start NEW.
- Collect all the POST-IT ballots and count the votes. Announce the tally to the group!
- Next week you'll either dive into making improvements or start again with a new project. Either way, be in thought/prayer for the week.