

Core Group

Retreat June 2025



Friday, June 6

Time	Activity
8:00–10:30	Arrival & Unpacking
10:30–11:00	Settling In: Coffee & Snacks (Go Over Itinerary)
11:00–12:00	Worship (3 Songs) & Personal Devotion Teaching (By Josiah)
12:00–12:30	Group Prayer Time
12:30–13:00	Free Time / Lunch Prep
13:00–14:00	Lunch & Fellowship Time
14:00–16:00	Kayak & Beach Time OR Kent & Anomia
16:00–17:30	Session 01 Mission & Culture
17:30–18:00	Free Time / Dinner Prep
18:00–19:00	Dinner & Fellowship Time
19:00–20:45	Session 02: Personal Evangelism
20:45–22:00	Worship (2-3 Songs) & Group Prayer Time (Led By Cody)
22:00–24:00	Late Night Tea & Snack / Bonfire Fellowship OR Board Games

Saturday, June 7

Time	Activity
7:00–7:45	Wake Up & Coffee
7:45–8:30	Worship (2 Songs) & Morning Devo (By Phil)
8:30–9:00	Free Time / Breakfast Prep
9:00–10:00	Breakfast & Fellowship Time
10:00–11:00	Men’s Hike & Women’s Hike OR Men’s & Women’s Small Group Time
11:00–12:45	Session 3: City Engagement
12:45–13:15	Free Time / Lunch Prep
13:15–14:00	Lunch & Fellowship
14:00–15:00	Volleyball Competition OR Bible Trivia Competition
15:00–15:30	Closing Worship (1 Song) & Closing Group Prayer
15:30–16:30	Packing Up, Cleaning, & Departure



Sessions

Session 01 Mission & Culture

Session 02 Engage Your Surroundings

Session 03 Engage the City

Session 01

MISSION & CULTURE

ACTS 17:22–34



**CONTEXTUALIZE
THE GOSPEL**



**UNDERSTAND
CULTURE**



**COMMUNICATE
RELEVANCE**

Question:

What are the first 3 words that come to mind when you think of “Montreal culture”?

Key Take Away

- Paul connects God with the religiosity of the Athenians through their Temple to the Unknown God.
- Identifies aspects of common grace (God’s truth revealed to unbelievers) within their own philosophy, particularly Stoicism, and articulates it as God’s truth (Paul quotes Epimenedes and Aratus in verse 28).
- Paul articulates the gospel—he doesn’t leave out God’s truth.
- This is a prime example of contextualizing the gospel, which is a core component of mission & culture. Cultures are vastly different, and we need to make the gospel understandable and relatable in each setting. There is a tension: over-contextualizing can water down the gospel, but not enough creates unnecessary barriers. We are called to be avid, adaptable students of culture as we live on mission.

Reality-Check Questions



- Where do you see the most “spiritual hunger” in your circles—even if it’s not religious?
- What are the top 2 values that seem to drive people in your workplace, friend group, or neighborhood?
- What’s something beautiful or good in local culture that you can genuinely celebrate as a Christian?
- Bonus: If you could ask Paul to visit Montreal for a day, what would you want him to see or say?

Activities

- Culture Map Collage
- The Unknown God Table

Session 02

SESSION 2 PERSONAL EVANGELISM

ROMANS 10:14-17



Question:

What’s the first word or feeling you associate with “evangelism”—be honest!

Key Take Away

- Paul’s ministry was evangelizing: he preached the gospel to individuals and taught Jesus’ teachings, then brought people together to form a church.
- Evangelism and church-planting are inextricably linked.
- The first step is to know the gospel yourself! (What is the gospel? What are its components)
- Reflect on how your own story shapes how you share the gospel.

Reality-Check Questions



- If you were your “pre-Christian” self, what part of the gospel would sound strange, confusing, or even offensive?
- Which part of sharing your faith makes you most anxious—awkwardness, rejection, not knowing what to say, something else?
- What’s a common “image” or stereotype of evangelism you’d rather avoid?
- Who in your circle do you want to reach, but you’re scared to try? Why?

Activities

- Gospel in My Language
- Fear-Setting & Reframing
- Role-Playing

Session 03



Questions:

What’s one thing about your city/neighborhood that makes you proud?

What’s one need or injustice in Montreal that frustrates or breaks your heart?

Key Take Away

- The church isn’t a private club of spiritualists; it is to be engaged in the life of its city and community as an organization.

- Early Christians powerfully engaged their cities (e.g., invented hospitals and orphanages).



Reality-Check Questions

- Where do you see the gap between what the church could do and what it's actually doing?
- What's a city problem you've never heard a Christian talk about?

Activities

- Gift Match-Maker
- Imagine If... Brainstorm