



All-Team : Plan for June–August 2022

Materials

- *All That's Good: Recovering the Lost Art of Discernment*, by Hannah Anderson
- Optional: *How to Think*, by Alan Jacobs

Purpose

- Scripture calls us to grow in wisdom and discernment as the people of God, but we live in an age that wars against that growth in uniquely destructive ways. Reading a book and prayerfully processing it together will supply shared categories and language for an area we can all grow. *All That's Good* is a helpful choice for a shared read in the summer season, since it offers deep truths in an accessible form.
- Working through *All That's Good* together will set us up for the fall, as we seek to continue exploring discernment and maturity in the context of communion. It will also hold hands well with our current sermon series *Rhythms of Grace*.
- Reflection questions will accompany the weekly reading assignments, and provide opportunity for discussion in congregational all-teams.
- A test case will be offered in each congregational all-team that allows us to ask what should be received, rejected, or redeemed in a particular writing sample. Practicing discernment takes practice, and requires us to think carefully about the subtle implications and unintended consequences of a writer's words.

Why this particular book?

- *All That's Good* asks how we can—imperfect as we are—develop an instinct for recognizing and embracing the good. How does discernment equip us to navigate a broken, complicated world with confidence and joy? *All That's Good* is not a systematic theology of discernment or a pastoral guide to discerning God's will for our lives. Rather, it offers a vision of what our lives might look like were we to be changed by wisdom—if we were to become people who know the difference between what's bad and what's good, what's good and what's better.
- Hannah Anderson explores how fear, pride, and a scarcity mindset can hinder our ability to experience God's goodness. This, in turn, leads to understanding why discernment cannot be separated from virtue—why making good choices goes hand in hand with becoming good people.
- Anderson also examines how contemporary culture undermines discernment—how the dynamics of social media create the perfect environment for con men and groupthink and how insecurity and the need to project a certain image of ourselves ensure that we'll fall for it.
- Instead of letting any of us off the hook, however, Anderson also explores why simply reacting to established culture is not enough, and why naïveté and isolationism can cause us to misstep just as quickly. Rather, Anderson considers how to establish truly countercultural habits that guide us and those we love toward goodness in small, everyday ways.
- Through it all, Anderson aims to help us become people who know, not just *what* to think, but *how* to think.



Schedule

- ▶ June 7th Zoo day
 - ▶ June 14th Elders and wives retreat
 - ▶ June 21st **Central All-Team**
Discernment, Pt. 2
 - ▶ June 28th **Congregational All-Teams**
Book discussion [come having read the introduction, plus chpts. 1–2, pp. 11–45]
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- ▶ July 5th Lake day
 - ▶ July 12th **Congregational All-Teams**
Book discussion and integration exercise 1 of 4 [read chpts. 3–4 prior]
 - ▶ July 19th **Central All-Team**
Maturity and Discernment in the Wisdom Literature [Dr. Heath Thomas]
 - ▶ July 26th **Congregational All-Teams**
Book discussion and integration exercise 2 of 4 [read chpts. 5–6 prior]
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- ▶ August 2nd Central Elders Retreat
 - ▶ August 9th **Central All-Team**
The Disciplines of Discernment, Pt. 1: Receive [Dr. Matthew Arbo]
 - ▶ August 16th **Congregational All-Teams**
Book discussion and integration exercise 3 of 4 [read chpts. 7–8 prior]
 - ▶ August 23rd **Central All-Team**
The Disciplines of Discernment, Pt. 2: Reject and Redeem [Josh Kouri]
 - ▶ August 30th **Congregational All-Teams**
Book discussion and integration exercise 4 of 4 [read chpts. 9–11 prior]
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