

## Handout 3

# A BASIC TOOL OF DISCERNMENT

Post this handout somewhere you will see it daily and use it as a springboard for reflection and action in the coming week.

Explore the question below throughout the week, filling in the blank with various programs, ministries, beliefs, and values. Reflect on whether each is essential or nonessential. Record your thoughts in your journal.

If \_\_\_\_\_ went away, could you still have a church?

### Essential vs. Nonessential

**Essential:** Absolutely necessary for the life and growth of the body of Christ. Gets to the very core of who we are and what we cannot lose in the expression of our church.

**Nonessential:** Not required for the life and growth of the body of Christ. Important, but not what matters most.