

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Fall 2024 - Welcome One Another - "Fellowship Together"

Monday, Sept. 9 - Sunday, Sept. 15 (Week 1)

EMPHASIS FOR THE MONTH: The month of September is all about building relationships and building trust within your group. You really want to be sure to give some time to just getting to know one another if people don't already know each other or know each other very well.

ICE BREAKER: If you are a group that has not been together before, begin the night by getting to know one another by answering the following questions:

1. What is your name and where do you live?
2. How long have you been attending CAB?
3. What do you do for work?
4. What is one thing that you are really passionate about?
5. Do you have a favorite type of food or a restaurant you love?

CAB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. We are in need of ONE MORE volunteer to help with childcare for our upcoming semester of MomCo! MomCo meets on select Monday mornings from 9:15-11 AM right here at the church. If you or someone you know may be interested in serving in this way, please contact our MomCo Coordinator, Jackie Levesque.
2. We will be holding our next Child Dedication Class next Saturday, September 21 at 10 AM. Please fill out the form in the Monday newsletter to sign up to attend. Questions? Contact our BergenKIDS Director, Barbara Krieger.
3. There will be a Night of Worship hosted by The Worship Collaborative at Restore Church in Midland Park on Wednesday, September 11 at 7 PM for an evening filled with music, prayers, and a sense of community. Let's come together to celebrate and praise in person, surrounded by our family from various local churches.

EXPECTATIONS: Take this time to go over your group's expectations. Things such as:

1. Commitment to Attendance

- Encourage members to prioritize attending meetings regularly.
- Discuss the importance of consistency for building relationships and deepening discipleship.

2. Confidentiality

- Emphasize the need for trust by keeping personal sharing within the group.
- Create a safe environment where people feel comfortable being vulnerable.

3. Respect for Time

- Honor the group's meeting start and end times.
- Encourage everyone to be prompt and mindful of each other's schedules.

4. Participation

- Encourage all members to engage in discussions and prayer times.
- Create space for everyone to share without feeling pressured.



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5. Support and Encouragement

- Set the tone of being a group that prays for, encourages, and supports one another.
- Make sure people know they're here to build each other up in Christ.

6. Follow-up and Communication

- Agree on the best ways to stay in touch between meetings (e.g., group texts, emails).
- Make sure group members are comfortable reaching out if they need prayer or support during the week.

7. Respect for Diversity

- Acknowledge that members may have different perspectives and backgrounds.
- Encourage respectful dialogue and unity in Christ, even when there are differences.

8. Serving One Another

- Discuss ways the group can serve the church and community together.
- Create a culture where members look for opportunities to help each other in practical ways.

IMPORTANT! - *As you prepare for your first group meeting this week, I just want to remind you: it's totally okay if you don't get through all (or even get to any) of the questions for this week. In fact, it's really important to spend time getting to know one another during these early meetings. Building relationships and establishing mutual trust is the foundation for what we'll do together as a group in the future. If that means spending the entire meeting sharing stories and learning about each other, that's exactly what needs to happen. Don't feel pressured to rush into the structure—we have plenty of time for that! Right now, it's all about connection. So, enjoy this time, and let God guide your conversations. If you need to just skip the questions and go right into prayer time.*

PRAYER FOR DISCUSSION: Leader or Co-Leader prays for the discussion time. Pray that the The Holy Spirit would assist in the conversing, processing, and listening of the discussion.

SERMON DISCUSSION TIME: Have someone read the passage: Romans 15:1-7 and then read this sermon summary to jog everyone's memory:

This week we introduced a new three-week mini-series focused on making the church feel like home through fellowship, serving, and worshiping together. The first message centers on the importance of fellowship, taken from Romans 15:1-7, emphasizing that welcoming one another reflects the grace Christ showed us and how the cross of Christ compels us to open our lives to one another. Pastor McKinney highlighted that the call to open our lives to each other is vital for creating community and should be approached with the same love and acceptance as Jesus demonstrated. This mini-series aims to encourage us to practice these three things to foster a welcoming church culture for the glory of God.



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QUESTION #1: What are some of the risks involved in opening our lives to others? How does the cross of Christ help us overcome these risks?

QUESTION #2: What does it mean to you personally that Jesus welcomed you at your worst? How does this impact your willingness to welcome others?

QUESTION #3: How have you experienced the benefits of true fellowship in your own life? Can you share a specific example?

QUESTION #4: What is one area of your life where you feel God is calling you to take a risk in opening up to others? How can you respond to this call?

PRAY TOGETHER: Spend time taking *and recording* prayer requests and then pray together as a group (*I strongly encourage you to send out the prayer requests weekly to your group to keep everyone informed and in the loop on how to pray for one another throughout the week. This also makes it easier to check-in with people who have shared requests to see how the Lord has been working in their lives*).

