

**SERVING THE
LORD AS A
COMMUNITY
GROUP**



COMMUNITY GROUP

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

THE FIVE PURPOSES OF A COMMUNITY GROUP

1. Reaching people for Christ
2. Teaching people the Bible
3. Ministering to one another in the Community Group
4. Serving the Lord as a Community Group
5. Integrating the mission and vision of Henderson Hills Baptist Church to the Community Group

In a consumerist world, often driven by self-interest and personal gain, the concepts of Christian service and relational discipleship both stand as powerful reminders of the essence of true Christian faith and compassion.

SIX SIGNIFICANT ISSUES WE WILL EXAMINE IN THIS BOOKLET:

- Scriptural Support for Serving Others
- “Serving the Lord Together” Defined
- Opportunities to Serve the Church Together
- Opportunities to Serve Locally Together
- Opportunities to Serve Globally Together
- Listening to the Call of the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT FOR SERVING OTHERS

SERVING OTHERS IS CHERISHED BY GOD

In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus shared a parable that expresses how serving others blesses God. “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”

In Matthew 25 Jesus emphasizes the significance of obeying God’s mission. Engaging in acts of charity, feeding the hungry, providing water to the thirsty, and caring for the less fortunate are acts deeply cherished by God. When Christians participate in God’s mission, they are essentially serving Jesus Himself, for whatever is done to the least of His people, is done unto Him.

SERVING OTHERS IS EXEMPLIFIED BY CHRIST

In Mark 10:45, Jesus said, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” In this verse, Jesus sets the ultimate example of service through His own life. His sacrificial love for humanity demonstrates that genuine service involves putting others’ needs before one’s own desires.

When Christians follow Jesus' example and embrace a servant's heart, they draw closer to Christ and understand the essence of His teachings. They experience personal transformation, shedding selfish desires, and finding joy in making a positive impact on others' lives.

SERVING OTHERS IS THE SOLUTION FOR SELFISHNESS

In Galatians 5:13, the Apostle Paul admonished, "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Paul's letter to the Galatians reminds Christians that true service is rooted in love and humility.

Serving others humbly and with love enables Christians to overcome selfishness. It nurtures a spirit of gratitude, acknowledging that all they have comes from God, and sharing those blessings with others strengthens their faith and relationship with God.

SERVING OTHERS AS TO THE LORD WILL BE REWARDED

Serving to receive a reward is the least of motivational sources. However, in Ephesians 6:7-8 Paul emphasizes the importance of dedicated and sincere service, recognizing that God ultimately rewards every act of goodness. He wrote, "rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free."

By serving wholeheartedly and selflessly, Christians strengthen their faith and trust in God's divine plan. The understanding that their service is an offering to the Lord elevates their actions, imparting a sense of eternal significance to their deeds.

SERVING OTHERS EXERCISES SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Peter's words in 1 Peter 4:10-11 remind Christians that their unique gifts and talents are meant to be used in the service of others, with the recognition that these abilities come from God. Peter wrote, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace."

When Christians utilize their talents in service, it reinforces the understanding that their abilities are divine gifts, and exercising them for the betterment of others brings glory to God. Christian service is not just an act of kindness; it is a way of life deeply rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. When Christians selflessly serve others, they embody the love, compassion, and humility that Christ exemplified during His time on Earth.

As Christians continue to embrace the path of service, they contribute to the creation of a more compassionate and loving world, reflecting the heart of Jesus Christ to all those they encounter.

"SERVING THE LORD TOGETHER" DEFINED

The theme of "Serving the Lord Together" resonates with the essence of community, collaboration, and a shared purpose as we strive to make a meaningful impact for the Lord Jesus Christ.

God will empower a Community Group to serve the Edmond community, our church, our church planting efforts, and taking the gospel to the unreached.

1. SERVING THE LORD TOGETHER AT HENDERSON HILLS

Our church body is supported through the mutual efforts of gifted volunteers. Community Group Leadership is a perfect example of what God can accomplish through the faithful obedience of gifted volunteers.

2. SERVING THE LORD TOGETHER IN LOCAL MINISTRY

Our commitment to serving the Lord extends beyond the walls of our church and into the heart of our community. By actively engaging in local ministry opportunities, we become the hands and feet of Christ to those in need. Whether it's participating in food drives, volunteering at local shelters, supporting marginalized people in under-resourced circumstances, or assisting in community outreach programs, our collective efforts demonstrate God's love in tangible ways.

3. SERVING THE LORD BY SUPPORTING LOCAL CHURCH PLANTING EFFORTS

A thriving community begins with the planting and nurturing of local churches. Our Community Group Mission/Discipleship Coordinators play a vital role in supporting these efforts, contributing not only to the growth of these new church plants but also fostering a sense of belonging and spiritual community. As we work hand in hand with church planting initiatives let us find ways of making a lasting difference in our community.

- ■ Henderson Hills Spanish Ministry Congregation
- ■ Afghan Church and Ministry
- ■ Providence Baptist Church

To get involved in serving any of these church planting efforts, contact Perry Walker, pwalker@hhbc.com.

4. SERVING THE LORD BY SUPPORTING OUR MISSIONARIES

Beyond our local borders, our church has committed to supporting missionaries who carry the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ to distant places. As Mission/Discipleship Coordinators, your role is pivotal in connecting our church community with these missionaries, recognizing that their work is an extension of our mission to live sent by sharing the gospel with the world.

“Serving the Lord Together” is not merely a theme but a call to action. It’s also a summons to unity, collaboration, and a shared commitment to make a lasting impact on the community of Edmond and beyond. Henderson Hills Baptist Church, the Missions Team and the Mission Director are ready to support and assist you as you work to develop this important role in the life of our Community Groups.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THE CHURCH TOGETHER

HILLSIDE KIDS MINISTRIES

Sundays

You and your Community Group could serve together one Sunday morning a month in Hillside Kids. Reach out to Macayla for which Sunday and service would be best.

G2 (Wednesday Evenings)

G2 stands for Grow and Go. This is where Hillside Kids dive deeper into the lesson from the Sunday before, 'Growing' more in God's Word. We also learn about 'Going' into the world and telling others about Jesus.

Marketplace

Marketplace happens the Wednesday before Easter and gives kids a hands-on experience of what it was like to walk through the markets in Jesus' day by touching, seeing, and smelling all the different things a market has to offer. If your CG is looking for a short-term serve opportunity, this one would be perfect.

VBS / Kids Kamp

VBS and Kids Kamp is another way your CG could serve together. How much fun would it be to serve together during VBS, or all go as sponsors to Kids Kamp?

Macayla Houk

mhouk@hhbc.com, 405-513-7533

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Big Weekend

Families are needed for hosting students. If families from your CG decide to host, others in your group could come along side them by providing breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, or transportation for the weekend.

Scholarships

Consider collectively providing scholarships for students to go to Student Camp, Big Weekend, United, and/or mission trips. This would be an opportunity to give so that students who need some financial help can still participate in ministry events.

Brent McCoy

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COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Dinners

Provide a Sunday night meal together at the College House and hang out with students.

College House Projects

Fix broken things, paint rooms, update furnishings, etc.

Shivam Patel

spatel@hhbc.com, 405-513-7523

WORSHIP & PRODUCTION

Good Friday

Community Groups are gladly welcomed to help with the setting up or tearing down of our Good Friday Worship Experience.

Sherri Wullschleger

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COMMUNICATIONS

Seat Backs

On Sundays after the second service has ended, Community Groups are needed to help straighten and refill the seat backs in the Worship Center. Every third seat needs to have three communication cards, a QR code, and a pen. Community Groups can sign up for one or two Sundays a month.

Angela Rose

arose@hhbc.com, 405-513-7429

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE LOCALLY TOGETHER

HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER

Hope Pregnancy Center supports men and women facing an unplanned pregnancy by offering education to encourage and affirm their self-worth and provide positive alternatives for individual situations and needs. Community Groups can serve by hosting a monthly dinner for their Empowered Parenting classes or by hosting baby showers for parents who participate in their classes.

Mandi Parkhurst

mandi.parkhurst@obhc.org, 405-330-0200

BOYS RANCH TOWN

The Boys Ranch Town in Edmond is a child-focused campus for boys needing a home. Community Groups can serve a cottage together at BRT by periodically taking meals, tending to flower beds, and general upkeep around the cottage.

Courtney Shettron

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ESL AT HHBC

ESL helps non-English-speaking individuals learn the language and integrate into their communities. Volunteers can teach ESL classes, provide language support, or assist with administrative tasks to aid in language acquisition.

Paul Baumann

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DISASTER RELIEF

Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief is a wonderful way to demonstrate God's love to people after they've been devastated, are desperate, hurting, and looking for answers. There are several ways in which your Community Group can serve following tornadoes, floods, wildfires, hurricanes, ice storms etc. Tasks range from using chainsaws, preparing and serving emergency meals, debris removal, and light building.

Harold Poling

haroldpoling2@gmail.com, 405-401-1814

NURSING HOME MINISTRY

Residents of nursing homes and assisted living centers are some of the most forgotten and neglected people of our day. Our Nursing Home Ministry will equip your Community Group to honor, serve, and minister to those in area facilities.

Bob Conrad

reconrad2@hotmail.com, 405-630-7087

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE GLOBALLY TOGETHER

Henderson Hills missionaries sent out from the church will have likely been active in a Community Group before moving to their field of service. For these missionaries, their Community Group relationship has been the very core of their church community and has helped them Live Sent through missions. In cases where there has not been a prior relationship between a missionary and a Community Group, the Missions Team can help to facilitate a meaningful adoption relationship with a Henderson Hills missionary.

The sent missionary is relying on that Community Group to provide a foundation of congregational love, care, and connectedness. In being challenged to commit to support one missionary or sent family, Community Group members are challenged to consider their role in the Great Commission.

A Community Group can support a missionary by:

- Prayerfully selecting a missionary advocate person.
- Providing prayer support by receiving the missionary's regular updates, praying for their requests, and responding to updates with encouragement.
- Maintaining regular communication with the missionary through emails, letters, or video calls to provide updates on the church's activities and to offer emotional support at least once per quarter.
- Raising awareness within the CG about the missionary's work and challenges they face. Help find creative ways to address some of these needs as a group.

- Provide support and resources for the missionary during furloughs, helping them transition back to their home culture, reconnect with the church community, and plan for the next phase of their mission.
- Encourage financial assistance to cover the missionary's living expenses, travel costs, and mission-related expenses through sacrificial giving to Henderson Hills Missions.
- Encourage and support the sending of Community Group members as short-term mission volunteers to visit and work alongside the missionary. This provides practical help, encouragement, and a sense of connectedness between the church and the mission field.

LISTENING TO THE CALL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Community Group leaders should follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit when discerning opportunities to serve the Lord. The Holy Spirit equips and empowers Community Group members and leaders with the gifts and abilities necessary to fulfill their roles effectively. By listening to the prompting of the Spirit, Christians can engage in acts of service that are not only fruitful but also deeply meaningful, aligning their actions with God's will and bringing glory to His name. The Holy Spirit serves as the ultimate guide, counselor, and source of strength, enabling Community Groups to make a lasting impact on the people they serve. How is the Holy Spirit leading your Community Group to serve?









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HENDERSON HILLS
BAPTIST CHURCH