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# Community Primer | Introduction

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## WHAT IS IT

We have seen how God uses Community Groups to transform lives and communities in Silver Spring and the surrounding area. We are so excited for what God has in store for you and your Community Group. You are entering into something exciting!

This Community Primer is designed to help your Community Group begin. This will walk you through the CG values, help your group get to know each other better, and familiarize you with various resources that will help your CG grow.

## HOW TO USE IT

Each Primer consists of a value, Scripture reading and discussion questions, engagement next steps, and prayer. Go section by section, read what's there, and discuss the questions. During your next meeting, start your gathering by following up on the previous meeting's engage action point.

## FIRST MEETING

Follow this template for your first meeting:

1. Discuss the following questions while eating dinner:
  - a. Why are you here and interested in this new CG?
  - b. Leader to share transparently about his/her vision.
  - c. Everyone follow and share.
2. Watch together the [SOMA Communities video](#).
  - a. Discuss the follow up questions.
3. Discuss and pray through the following questions:
  - a. What gripped you from that video?
  - b. What frightens or excites you about this kind of community?
  - c. What do you want God to do in us?
  - d. What do you want God to do through us?
  - e. What are the names of specific people you want to reach?

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# Community Primer | Week 1

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## FOLLOWING JESUS

*Read together*

We are explicitly Christ-centered, worshiping God by orienting our entire lives around Him. Our Triune God has revealed Himself to us in His Son, Jesus Christ. The gospel has changed every bit of our lives and we live for Him. The gospel both saves and sanctifies us. Christ is our Savior, example, and provision for a relationship with God and our lives of obedience to Him in His world. The Christ Centered scriptures reveal our God and shape our relationship with Him through the empowerment of the Spirit. The gospel shapes everything we do and all that we are about.

This is primarily lived out in the Community Group Family Meal, where the CG shares about how Jesus is at work in each member's life and how He is working in the lives of people around us.

**Life Question** – When did Jesus become central in your life? How is His centrality shaping the different areas of your life today (i.e., work, parenting, etc.)? Is there anything competing for centrality in your life?

## SCRIPTURE & DISCUSSION

*Read together*

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*  
Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

*And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."*  
Matthew 4:19 (ESV)

1. What are some key words or phrases that stand out in these verses?
2. What does it look like to fully orient our lives around God? To be fully Christ-centered according to these passages?
3. Describe your relationship with Jesus. Are you getting to know Him and shaped by the Spirit as you read His word? Why or why not?

4. What role does your Community Group play in your own pursuit of following Jesus? What role do you play in your Community Group's pursuit of following Jesus?

**Main Idea** – Jesus is central in our personal and Community Group life.

**Main Goal** – We would each have a vibrant relationship with Jesus that transforms our personal lives. Our Community Group meal would remind us of Christ's centrality as we share stories.

### **ENGAGE - PERSONAL TIME WITH THE LORD**

One of the best ways we can follow Jesus is through consistent time with Him. Use the ACTS prayer model and either the GROW or SOAP scripture reading models to spend regular time with the Lord over the next week. As you consistently do this, it will turn into a regular habit. Be prepared to share next week how this went. You can find those resources in the appendix.

### **PRAY**

Read over the Family Meal document and discuss the different components. Once you finish the primer, we suggest you hold a family meal monthly (or more).

Pray that God would shape us into a community that loves God and seeks to be fully centered on Him. Pray that God would shape us into a community that loves Christ and is shaped into his likeness by scripture. Pray that God would reveal Jesus to others through us.

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# Family Meal

## Connecting with Your Family on Mission

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### THE BASICS

*Acts 2:42-47*

We gather together as a family to share our lives around the table and plan to move together toward others in our neighborhood, including neighbors, coworkers, and friends. Family Gatherings should happen at least once a month on a regular day and time. Anyone in your Community Group can host, so try rotating locations. Create a hospitable environment – nothing fancy!

### THE STRUCTURE

Family Gatherings should have **three main components** during each gathering:

1. **Mingle and Chat** (15 min) – Give people time to chat informally. This is a great time to check in with people and finish setting up food.
2. **Meal** (45 min) – Food is not just a tool to entice people to come. When you share your lives around a table, communities grow as you laugh and cry about real life moments. Try a potluck style, or have the host or leader plan the menu and then send an email to the group about what everyone can sign up to bring.

Ask the following questions while sharing a meal:

1. How is Jesus working in your life?
  2. How is Jesus causing you to move toward others?
3. **Plan** (30 min) – Intentionally make time to incorporate your lives together. Bring your calendars and plan Scatter Times. The responsibility for Scatter Times falls on each community member. The leader does not have to coordinate or attend every single one. Many times the entire group will not be able to attend. For example, if someone expresses interest in serving, ask them to plan a serving activity for the group.
  4. **Pray** (30 min) – Spend time in prayer specifically for each other. Pray that God would use your community to demonstrate and declare the gospel, and that neighbors, co-workers, and friends would come to know him. Instead of waiting until the end to pray, try to pray throughout your time together as people share around the table.

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## Community Primer | Week 2

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### FOLLOW UP:

Have everyone share how they did with last week's action point, which was to regularly study God's word using the SOAP or GROW model, as well as regularly praying with ACTS.

### TOGETHER

*Read together*

We live our lives together as disciples of Christ in a diverse, unified, community of believers. We go deep in discipleship with one another by seeking Him in the scriptures and in prayer. We share our lives transparently together, that the real "me" would be known, loved, and embraced in real time. We give to each other sacrificially and generously. Programs and structures help foster these "family relationships," helping us integrate all our lives, knitting together our "church friends" with neighbors, coworkers, and friends.

This primarily happens in our weekly 3D times as we share our lives transparently, read the scriptures together, and pray for one another.

**Life Question** – What's the best community relationships you've experienced? Share examples. What do you hope or long for from this relational community? What are you frightened of?

### SCRIPTURE & DISCUSSION

*Read together*

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*  
Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

1. What were some key markers of the early church in this passage?
2. Is this picture of community in the New Testament different than the way you experience community life and relationships today? Compare and contrast.
3. What are the joys of biblical community? What are the challenges and barriers?
4. How can we rely on God to develop community within this group? What practical steps can we take?

**Main Idea** – We are called to share deep and transparent lives together that shape us into Christlikeness.

**Main Goal** – We want to become friends and family together in real relationship that happens in and out of group time. We also want the weekly 3D meetings to help you grow deep and transparent.

### **ENGAGE - SHARE MY STORY**

One of the best ways to connect as a group is by sharing our life stories together with each other. Start by everyone sharing their story over the next couple of weeks, using the guidelines on the next page. Eat a meal together (consider sharing hosting responsibilities) and have people share about 15 minutes each. Don't move on to the next primer until everyone has had a chance to share.

### **PRAY**

Once you start meeting in 3Ds, you will structure your time around life, bible, and prayer. Look over the 3D meeting guide, found in the appendix, and pray that God would exceed your expectation with our relationship together, and for the people he is going to bring into this community. Pray that we would grow in our love for one another.

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# Sharing My Story

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## OVERVIEW

We desire to be impacted by and tell the story of how God has transformed our lives through the gospel. In preparing to share this story, it's helpful to reflect upon and write it out in your own words. Take time to seek the Lord in order to reflect and remember your story. The outside of our lives ("what" we say and do) gives us a window into the "why" (condition of our hearts). Our grave situation highlights our Great Savior, creating our joy! He is rich in mercy, love and grace.

Spend the next few weekly family meals for everyone in your group to share his or her story.

## THERE WAS A BEGINNING AND A SHAPING: PURPOSE/IDENTITY/VALUE

**Growing Up**- What was your family like, what did they value? What were your interests? What were you drawn to? Were there crashes/brokenness where your sinfulness surfaced: what has wounded you? Destructive life patterns? How did you harm others? What emotions defined your life stages?

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## THERE WERE WAYS I TRIED SAVING MYSELF, OUTSIDE OF GOD: SAVIORS

**gods**- What ways did you try to "fill your gaps" in the world?, What was your "drug of choice"? (i.e., alcohol, money, religious performance, success, appearance, good works, sex, power, pornography, narcotics, children, boyfriend/ girlfriend, etc.) How were you following the ways of the world, your-self, or the ways of Satan/rebellion? What did you believe or do, to find purpose?

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**THERE IS A GOD WHO IS REDEEMING: NEW PARADIGM SALVATION**

**Grace-** How did God speak “Good-News” into your life? What uniquely was it that Jesus has redeemed in your life (consider your unique gaps/gods)? What events or true identity from the gospel is uniquely good-news for you?

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**THERE IS A GOD YOU NOW WALK WITH IN RELATIONSHIP: NEW LIFE IN SALVATION**

**Obedience from love-** How is God pouring grace into your life now? How would you capture His call on your life? What ways are you coming to know Him more? Where do you find joy in life with Him?

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## Community Primer | Week 3

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### FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD

*Read together*

You've enjoyed a lot of meals and shared a lot of stories, but it's easy to forget that there are a lot of people who do not experience meals and community like this, especially communities that are transformed and shaped by Christ.

We are sent by God to see Him redeem people and bring about the restoration of His world. God has rescued us by grace through faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. We want the world to know and embrace Him. Mission catalyzes our decision-making and spending. We want to demonstrate the gospel by caring for the "least of these." We want to declare the gospel by explicitly sharing with "the lost." We pray and live in a way that God might multiply His Kingdom through us at every level: individual disciples, CGs, and churches.

This primarily happens in the CG Scattered Times when we build relationships and share the gospel by celebrating and serving with and amongst the lost.

**Life question** – Name some people you love that don't know Jesus. Think through your neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family. Share a bit about them. What are they looking for that they'd only find in Jesus? How might Jesus bring new purpose to their lives?

### SCRIPTURE & DISCUSSION

*Read together*

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

*But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

Jeremiah 29:7 (ESV)

1. What stands out to you from these passages?
2. Why do you think God uses us to make disciples?

3. What role do we play? What role does God play?
4. How can we reorient our lives to follow Jesus together as a community on mission?
5. What are some ways we can celebrate (enjoy relationship) with our neighbors, coworkers, and friends who don't yet know Christ? Reference the celebration portion of the scatter resource in the appendix.
6. What are some ways we can serve and serve with our lost neighbors, coworkers, and friends? Reference the serve portion of the scatter resource in the appendix.
7. If your group had \$1000 in each of your hands, what would you do with it to celebrate or serve those who don't yet know Christ?

### **ENGAGE - TO WHOM, HOW?**

Have everyone go to the To Whom How document in the appendix. Fill out the Place section and then share your thoughts. Fill out the Get Closer section and then share your thoughts. Fill out the Go Deeper section and share your thoughts.

### **PRAY**

Pray that the Holy Spirit would captivate our lives with the love of Jesus and as a result we would see all of life as mission. Pray for specific people by name. Ask God to give you opportunities to declare the gospel and that he would save them. Pray for wisdom and boldness for your Community Group as you seek to reach your neighbors, coworkers, and friends.

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## Community Primer | Week 4

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### **FOLLOWING JESUS TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD**

We have spent the past couple of weeks looking through our Community Group values. As a reminder, they are Following Jesus Together for the Good of the World. We are “Jesus centered,” both personally and together as a group. We do this “together” by sharing our lives transparently, studying scripture, and praying with one another. And we do all of this “for the good of the world” so that our neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family have opportunities to hear about Jesus.

This is lived out through:

1. Family Meal
2. 3D's
3. Scatter Times

After living these rhythms over the next six months, regroup and think about how your group would best contextualize these values around who your group is and how best to reach your neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family. Each group is different, so consider the unique personalities, life situations, and contexts of your group.

Now that you have a basic overview of community values, rhythms, and the foundation in the scripture, it is time to put this knowledge into action.

1. Spend time praying together and ask God to give you unity as a community on mission.
2. Work through the questions below and write down the answers as a group.

### **MISSION**

Write out the primary mission of your community group.

How would you capture, in a sentence or two, what you are about and who you hope to reach with the gospel?

### **FAMILY GATHERING**

What day(s) and time of the week will your Family Gathering take place? *Set a repetitious gathering.*  
*Example: Every other Sunday at 5:00PM (Minimum monthly)*

Who will host family gatherings? How will we share hosting as a group?

How will our group communicate with each other for meal sign up and relational opportunities throughout the week? (Email, text, GroupMe, etc.)

## SCATTERING TOGETHER

Plan the first Community Group Scatter

1. Will it be a celebration or service?
2. What day and time will it be?
3. Who will take point on planning it?
4. Which neighbors, co-workers, and friends do you need to invite? *List them by name and spend time praying for each one of them before moving on.*
5. Prior to the scatter time, everyone invite the people they're going to invite.

## 3D

Who will be the women's 3D leader? What day and time of the week will you meet? Where will you meet?

Who will be the men's 3D leader? What day and time of the week will you meet? Where will you meet?

You will use the 3D meeting guide to do life, bible, and prayer every time. Along with that guide work through the 3 foundation 3D studies. And then plan on using that guide and a book of the bible in all subsequent meetings. [www.thewellsilverspring.org/resources](http://www.thewellsilverspring.org/resources)

1. Rooted
2. The Gospel Centered Life
3. New City Catechism

## PRAY

Spend time praying for the rhythms you have just set. Ask God to use your Community Group to bring neighbors, co-workers, and friends to Jesus.

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# Community Primer Appendix

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ACTS Prayer

GROW

SOAP

3D Meeting Guide

Scatter Times

Communities Grant Proposal Form

To Whom, How

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# ACTS Prayer

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## ACTS - ENJOYING & ENGAGING GOD IN PRAYER

Prayerfully linger in these areas (10-15min each)

- **Adoration** (praising God for who He is)
  - What have you learned about His character lately? Praise Him
  - What ways has God been \_\_\_\_\_ to you? Praise Him.
  - Where do you need God to be who He is in your life? Praise Him.
  - Read through the Psalms if necessary as a guide to help you praise Him.
  
- **Confession** (things done, not done, motives etc.)
  - What do you need to confess to Him about your thoughts?
  - What do you need to confess to Him about your motives?
  - What do you need to confess to Him about your attitude?
  - What do you need to confess to Him in your work?
  - What do you need to confess to Him in your relationships?
  
- **Thanksgiving** (things God has given or done)
  - What relationship can you thank Him for?
  - What tangible things has He provided that you can thank Him for?
  - What in your work can you thank Him for?
  - What has he done in you, for you, in spite of you, through you?
  
- **Supplication** (Requests for yourself, work, family, leaders, lost people).
  - Pray that He would change (you or a situation).
  - Pray that He would meet (you or someone).
  - Pray that He would give (tangibly or intangibly).
  - Pray that He would save (neighbor/coworker/friend/family).

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**GET IN IT: PRAY, REFLECT, OBSERVE*****Read + Observe Everything Within the Passage - What Does it Say?***

1. Before you start reading spend time **being still**. Ask God to show you what's on your heart and mind. Prayerfully ask Him for a desire to know and love Him more. Ask Him to meet you in this time with Him in the Bible and to change you to be more like His Son.
2. **Read the passage** a few times and carefully observe the words; give full attention to what it says. The purpose of *observation* is to saturate yourself completely with the content of the passage. Look for things such as: important words (what's being talked about), conjunctions (how is one idea connected to another), admonitions (something being commanded), contrasts, comparisons, illustrations, repeated phrases/words, mood, and grammatical construction (verb tenses, prepositional phrases, etc.). Linger here, listening to what God is saying in the detail of His words.
3. **Ask questions**. This is the bridge between *reading* the passage and *understanding* it. Don't rush this step (even if think you know the answers). Ask yourself many *questions for understanding* such as: Who is writing? Who are the characters? What's the meaning of...? I wonder why...? What's the relationship between...? What is written before and after the passage (context is everything)? What is unexpected in this passage? What rubs me wrong about this passage? How does this fit into the grand story of the scriptures (Creation, Fall, Redemption, Culmination)? What do I learn about myself from this passage? What do I learn about God in this passage? What is the definition of...? Etc.

**RESOURCES: PRAY, INTERPRET, ANSWER*****Tools to Help You Answer Your Questions - What Does it Mean?***

The goal here is to use resources to help unleash the meaning. You want to be careful not to bring your own assumptions, perspectives, thoughts, background, and experiences to the text. Though our experiences are helpful, presuppositions can also result in an incorrect, shallow, or unbiblical meaning. Interpreting the passage flows out of your previous questions for understanding (above). Use some of these tools below to help you. Aim to discover the author's purpose in writing.

1. **Use the passage and surrounding context:** Look before, after, and in your passage to answer as many questions for understanding as possible. Allow scripture to interpret scripture. Context is everything.
2. **Pray.** Reading the Bible is your conversation with God. Remember to keep talking with Him. Ask Him for clarity and answers; wrestle with Him over hard truths. Confess, rejoice, seek Him.

3. **Define words:** Look in a dictionary to discover the meaning of key words.
4. **Compare translations:** Read the passage in several translations to hear it afresh.
5. **Study cross-references:** Use the footnotes to find similar verses. We recommend the ESV Study Bible.
6. **Concordances:** A concordance is an alphabetical topical index of Bible passages. You may have one in the back of your Bible. Look up the topic of your passage to find parallel verses. You can find three great concordances here: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/concordances/>.
7. **Discuss it with others:** Share observations and questions with other believers (3D's). How do others understand this passage? What can you learn from their questions and answers?
8. **Commentaries/Bible Atlas/Bible dictionary:** These are very helpful in providing background to the geography, history, and culture of biblical times (particularly for harder passages)
9. Check out [www.bestcommentaries.com](http://www.bestcommentaries.com). We recommend the NIV Application Commentary Series, Matthew Henry Commentary (Free Online) and God's Word for You Series.
10. **Online Study Tools:** [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) | [www.esvbible.org](http://www.esvbible.org) | [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org) | [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com)
11. **Sermons + Articles:** [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org) | [www.thegospelcoalition.org](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org) | [www.monergism.com](http://www.monergism.com)

### Outline It: Pray, Summarize, Synthesize

#### **Ways to Write Out What You Are Learning - What is the Main Idea/Truth?**

Now you're ready to clarify what you've learned about God and yourself in this passage. You've taken it apart; now put it back together. Choose from these helpful ways to **synthesize** what you've just read.

1. Outline the text; capture the specific flow of the argument or story.
2. Write the passage in your own words. Make sure to capture the main idea.
3. Illustrate, draw, paint, what is happening in the passage.
4. Journal about what stood out to you in the passage, and pray through it.
5. Diagram or flowchart the key concepts in the text.

### WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? PRAY, APPLY, TRANSFORM

#### **Obey God's Word in Your Life Today - How Do I Respond?**

Knowing God in His word is a core piece of your life-changing relationship with Him. It is crucial to stop and decide to respond to God in obedience. He loves you. You can trust Him, believe in Him, and obey Him.

1. **What am I to believe?** – Did I learn something new about God or myself? Is there any important teaching on which I need to build my faith? Is there truth to understand about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, grace, mercy, sin, forgiveness, hope, eternal life, suffering etc.?



Remember the Gospel: How is this passage good news to me because of Jesus?

2. ***What am I to do?*** – How does my faith translate into specific action? Is there something I am compelled to do? Is there sin I must confess to God or someone in my life? To confess sin, go below surface actions to the “why” motivation. How does the gospel offer what my sinful motivation does not provide? How does Jesus motivate my faith to obey in specific action?

Remember the Gospel: How did Jesus do all I did not, forgive me, and empower me to obey?

3. ***Whom can I tell?*** - Is there a person who knows Christ who can help me obey? Is there someone (Christian or not) who might be encouraged, challenged, or resonate with this truth? Does this passage create questions or doubts I can investigate with other believers?

Remember the Gospel: How does God’s grace to me in Christ spill over to others?

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**SOAP**

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**SCRIPTURE**

Begin reading a passage in the bible (if reading the bible is new for you, start in one of the gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). Stop when something jumps out.

Take a moment to rephrase or summarize what has jumped out to you. What is God saying in this? Write it down. Consider why God brought this section/idea/word to your attention. Write these reflections down.

**OBSERVE**

1. What words, themes, or phrases stick out?
2. Does the passage present a specific command or promise?
3. What questions does the passage raise for you?
4. What is the surrounding context of the passage, how does it impact what you have read?
5. Summarize, in a sentence or two, the main idea/principle of the passage.

**APPLY**

1. How does the passage connect with your life right now?
2. Does this prompt you to believe something you didn't before? Is God prompting you to do (or not do) something you weren't doing before? Is God prompting you to share something you haven't shared before?
3. Write, specifically, a way to obey God in response to what you just read.

**PRAY**

Now talk to God. Praise Him for who He is. Confess where you fall short. Ask for further clarity, guidance and understanding of the passage. Talk transparently with Him about any frustrations, fears, doubt, or confusion. Ask Him for the power to respond and obey. Thank Him for Jesus, His forgiveness and His love, that is your motivation to obey.

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# 3D Meeting Guide

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## **BIBLE (30 MIN)**

Read and discuss a chapter (or less) of the bible together. Use the below two main questions to guide your discussion. Share what you learned in this passage as you read it on your own through the week, or as you read it together now (use the GROW tool or any of our other bible study guides found online for your personal study through the week). Jump in and out of prayer as you seek God together.

1. What does it say? Reflect and observe what God says in this passage. Consider words, themes, commands, promises, etc. Simply share all of the things that jump out to you about this passage.
2. What does it mean? Consider the context, commentaries, flow of thought, argument, and other passages of scripture to summarize the meaning. Summarize the main idea/principle of the passage.
3. How does the gospel inform or connect with this truth, highlighting God's provision to us in Christ, and compelling us to obey Him because of His grace?

## **Life (30 MIN)**

Now focus on how the passage you read impacts your life. What difference does what you have just read/shared make in your life? So what?

Consider how God desires you to respond to who He is and what He has said. Be specific, tangible, real, honest, transparent. What is God calling you to do, not do, believe, confess, or share? Do not forget the gospel! Jesus has given you His righteousness. Jesus has forgiven you for your sin. His grace and acceptance compels us to obey.

Here are some questions to help facilitate deeper discussion:

1. What must you do (not do), or believe in light of what we have just read?
2. Is there something you need to celebrate or confess from the past week?
3. Who could you share this truth with (both a believer and non-believer)?
4. See supplementary questions on the bottom of this sheet.

## PRAYER (15 MIN)

Spend time talking to God and praying for each other. Pray through any areas God has spoken to you through the given passage. Consider the following:

1. Praise God for who He is.
2. Confess sins, disobedience, or disbelief.
3. Thank God for His grace and provision.
4. Pray for people who don't yet know Him, by name.

## SUPPLEMENTARY LIFE QUESTIONS

Below are some additional questions that we have found helpful for sharing our life together. Choose any that apply to the passage, or may spur conversation:

1. What am I to believe?
  1. What do you doubt?
  2. What is keeping me from trusting in God?
  3. How has the Holy Spirit been growing your faith this week?
  4. What unhealthy thoughts have been lingering in your mind?
  5. Is there a promise you need to claim?
2. What am I to do?
  1. How have you been disobedient to God this week? Something you have said, done, thought, looked at?
  2. Have you avoided a step of obedience God wants you to take?
  3. Are your relationships healthy and honoring to God? How has your love for others been incomplete? Is there someone with whom you need to reconcile, or share loving truth with?
  4. Are you being sacrificial and generous with your love?
3. Whom can I tell?
  1. Who is someone that does not yet know Jesus, that you sense God is moving you towards?
  2. What is the next step towards them that you need to take?
  3. What question could you ask a coworker, neighbor, friend, or family member that might spur deeper conversation?

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# Scatter Times

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*Building Relationships with Gospel Intentionality*

## THE BASICS

*Look at all of your life intentionally as a missionary. We scatter together to live our lives on mission, to demonstrate and declare the gospel. Instead of adding more events to packed calendars, look at the natural rhythms of your life. Scatter Times offer a neutral and natural environment for anyone to feel comfortable to join, especially when you invite people to participate in activities they would do anyways. We suggest scattering together 2-3 times per month.*

## KEY RHYTHMS

Scatter Times typically fall under two key phrases:

1. **Celebrate** – Throw or join a party to celebrate a holiday, birthday, or anniversary. Or just celebrate life with a cookout on Friday and invite neighbors, coworkers, and friends. The goal of celebrations is to build genuine relationships with the hope of engaging in explicit gospel conversations.

This looks different depending on your life stage. For example, if one of your coworkers wants to play trivia or join a running group, invite a small pocket of your community to join you. Or, maybe you want to put your kid in soccer. Invite other community parents to put their kids in the same soccer league, and engage with parents on the sidelines during practices and games.

2. **Serve** – Demonstrate the gospel by meeting felt and tangible needs, including emotional and physical needs of people around you. Invite neighbors, coworkers, and friends to serve alongside your community and to love the city together. Don't feel like you have to create events from scratch. Join a community project or serve alongside a non-profit in your neighborhood. And when people ask why you serve, take the opportunity to share the gospel. (*We can serve and give of ourselves because Jesus has sacrificed so much for us and loved us.*)

## NUTS & BOLTS

- Be intentional about what's on your calendar. It doesn't always have to be additional.
- Ask people to bring their calendars to Family Gatherings and plan dates together.
- Consider the season of the year. Be proactive to connect with people around holidays, in the warm weather, or at seasonal events.

# Communities Grant Proposal Form

Community Grants are designed to help you with resources to engage neighbors, co-workers and friends through scattering as community. Grants can be submitted for both celebration scatters (block parties, game nights, etc.) and service scatters (park clean-up, school events, etc.). Please submit this completed form and any questions to Pastor Matt. [matt@thewellsilverspring.org](mailto:matt@thewellsilverspring.org). You may also request an online link.

Name	Click here to enter text.		Date:	Click here to enter a date.
Community Name	Click here to enter text.			
Community's Mission				
Is the Leader	<input type="checkbox"/> a Church Member	<input type="checkbox"/> in 3D Group	<input type="checkbox"/> on CCB and The Weekly	
Are Core Team Members	<input type="checkbox"/> a Church Member	<input type="checkbox"/> in 3D Group	<input type="checkbox"/> on CCB and The Weekly	

Project Title			
Requested Amount		<input type="checkbox"/> One-time	<input type="checkbox"/> Recurring
Purpose of the Grant			
How does this project fit into the Community's Mission and help the Community in engaging the lost in an ongoing way?			

Who will be involved, and How?
Success - How will it be measured and assessed?
How will the Community invest their time and skills? How much will the Community invest financially in this?

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## To Whom, How

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### PLACE: TO WHOM WILL I FOLLOW JESUS TOWARDS?

Where am I currently placed in Time + Place + Hobbies (neighbors, coworkers, friends)?

Have I sensed His movement to take me towards some other “people group?”

List three people with whom you want to build a relationship. Pray for them often.

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### GET CLOSER: HOW?

How can I increase my physical proximity to these three people?

How can I increase my relational proximity with these three people?

### GO DEEPER: WHERE IS GOD ALREADY WORKING?

Listen for: “How is Jesus good news to this person?” Listen a Lot + Share a Little.

What questions can I ask to go a little deeper relationally? When will I do so?

What questions might create conversation around purpose, peace, joy, identity etc?

Can I ask to pray for them, and do so on the spot?

### HELPFUL QUESTIONS

Going deeper in relationship. *Resource: Gary Poole, Complete Book of Questions*

How do you enjoy your job? What was your life like growing up? Who are some of your closer relationships? Do you feel like you are getting everything out of life you had hoped for? What kinds of things make you anxious? Do you feel like you are keeping control of your life? What are some things



you wish you could change? Did you ever do the religious thing? What kinds of things create purpose in your life? How do you make decisions? Who has had an influence in your thinking/living? What are you reading? I need your advice on \_\_\_\_\_. How do you relax? What do you think about your boss? Do you pray, about what? What do you think happens when you die? Who/what has shaped your view of Jesus? What questions would you ask God if you could? What do you think about the bible? What is your spiritual history like? Could we read something out of the bible together? Why do you work where you do? What is bringing you joy these days? What's something you wish you could change?

### THE GOSPEL: "GOOD NEWS"

God saves sinners through faith in Jesus' life/death/resurrection.

1. God made us for a life-giving relationship with Him. *Psalm 100:3; Acts 17:24-28*
2. We all broke this relationship, desiring to live life our own way. *Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23*
3. The penalty for breaking this relationship is death now and to come. *Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:2*
4. Jesus paid that penalty for you, taking on God's wrath, rising again. *1 Peter 3:18; Romans 5:8*
5. Receive Him, begin living/experiencing life in relationship with God. *Jn 1:12, 3:36; Eph 2:8-10*