

Opening: Open Each Community Group Meeting by Reading the Community Grp Summary

What is a Community Group at Trinity Presbyterian Church?

Community Groups are basic Christian communities. Believing that getting to know Jesus and falling in love with him are activities best carried out in a community context, Community Groups provide that context. They are gatherings of 6 to 12 people meeting in homes and apartments throughout the city during the week. In Community Groups, people come to know God and to experience His presence, community is developed and fostered, and people are nurtured, equipped and released for God's work in the world. They provide an opportunity for intimacy, mutual support, practical love and service, learning about the Christian faith, prayer, and sharing of what we see God doing in our midst.

What is the Purpose of Community Groups?

A place to meet and experience Jesus Christ in our midst through mutual ministry

A place for fellowship and friendship

A place where gifts are exercised

A place to discover Christianity

What happens during a Community Group Meeting?

Worship – Experiencing the Worth of God and freely giving ourselves to Him

Sharing – Learning to tell the story of our journey with God

Sermon Application – Reflecting together on what God has given us from His Word during Corporate Worship

Prayer – Talking with God

Mission – Having experienced God's love, we now go to love our neighbor with the love we have from God

How do they fit in at Trinity as a whole?

Community Groups are the *primary place for pastoral care at Trinity*. Churches do one of two things: They either practice systematic care and encouragement of the congregation or systematic neglect of the congregation. Our network of community groups is the means through which we seek to practice the former. While some congregations may have small groups, *our congregation is small groups*. Our network of Community groups serves as the nervous system of our church. In them, the gospel is used to motivate people towards a richer relationship with God. In them, the gospel is used as a balm to apply to the wounds we incur in this broken world. In them, the gospel is used to call and motivate people into the service of God's kingdom: In response to God's grace, people are urged to develop lives of moral beauty, integrity and other-centeredness and to discover and use their gifts to carry out ministry both within the congregation and to the world.

The Context of Change: The Worshiping Community

Worshiping God enables us to see the beauty of God and the beauty of godliness. When we worship, we find that our love for God deepens and the hold that other things have on us loosen. When we worship, we find that it changes what we want: we want God and we want to please him more than we want and desire other things. Regularly worshipping God with the larger church, in small groups and on a daily basis as an individual is indispensable if our lives are to change.

Growth by Multiplying New Groups

Trinity's primary vision is that by multiplying groups we are able to increase our capability as a church to care for people. When people are not involved in significant Christian relationships, like Community Groups, it greatly inhibits Christian maturity. Currently many of our friends at Trinity fall outside this kind of caring and encouraging community. For this reason, we consider it imperative to develop new leaders and expand the number of groups. We are not concerned with multiplying groups as an end in itself. We want to increase the number of groups because we want to provide quality personal care and community life for those who are part of our network of friends. As long as we have too few groups, Trinity, Lakeland and Polk County will fail to be as effective as we might be. If we are going to be successful at multiplying groups, then we will need to cast a vision that will make people enthusiastic and committed to these things. If this vision casting is neglected, the resistance to multiplying groups will prove too strong to overcome.

1. Launchers:

- What is the value of what you have been given?
 - Eyes to see
 - Mind to remember
 - Your 30s
 - Your talent
 - Friendships
 - Family
 - Pain
 - Suffering
 - Failure
 - Eternity
 - Learning
 - Teachers
 - Illness
 - Kindness
 - Forgiveness
 - Repentance

2. Worship God with Hearts of Gratitude for His Generosity to You! – Psalm 92 1-2, 4

Praise God for His Good gifts to you. Make it personal.

Psalm 92:1-4

- ¹ It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High.
- ² to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
- ³ to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
- ⁴ For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands, I sing for joy. ¹

3. Sermon Reflection: Psalm 92:1-2, 4 (1-2-22: Trinity’s 25th Anniversary)

Intro: 1 Cor. 4:7 “What do you have that you did not receive?”

WHY GRATITUDE TO GOD?

- Why is the LORD worthy of our gratitude?
- What is the value of what you have been given?
- What are the times of day when you are most grateful?
- What are the places where you are most grateful?
- Who are the people that make you think about God’s goodness to you?

WHAT GRATITUDE DOES

- Why are we reluctant to give thanks?
- When are you least grateful?
- Where are the places that cause you to be ungrateful or that you have been short-changed?
- Who are the people that encourage you to entitlement or ingratitude?
- How do we nurture the belief that kindnesses rendered are somehow deserved?

WHAT GRATITUDE REVEALS - By the work of HIS hands, we are saved.

- Thanksgiving/Gratitude – Acknowledging personal benefit from the work of another
 - What can you know about thankful folks?
 - What can you know about ungrateful folks?
 - What is your favorite work of God that leaves you perpetually grateful?
-

4. Kingdom Centered Prayer: YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Worship the LORD for His abundant generosity and grace. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His faithful love and provision, especially throughout Trinity's first 25 years
2. How have you lived ungratefully, or with an entitled attitude? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and transform your heart by His love.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for being the God who keeps His Covenant oath. Thank Him for His steadfast love and the work of *His* hands to do everything necessary to cleanse all our sins and take us into His family.
4. Who do you know that has helped form our church over its 25-year history so far? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them to continue to grow in the Gospel and to share that love even more.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and joy. Pray for a grateful disposition, and for the Spirit's work to help you see the myriad reasons you have to live with a thankful spirit.

5. Mission: 2021 Reflections / 2022 Anticipation Questions

Send these questions out to your group and let them pick one or two to share at your next CG.

2021 Reflection / 2022 Anticipation - template

1. How has God shown Himself great to you this past year? Or why do you faith/believe more cuz of the gift of God to you of 2021?
2. What character quality is the most critical for you to develop in the year 2022?
3. What spiritual discipline (Examples: Bible reading, meditation, Family Worship, Evangelism, Prayer, Thanksgiving) is most critical for you to master or be mastered by in the year 2022?
4. What personal habit, practice or character deficiency is the greatest threat to your life and ministry?
5. Name 5 people that you most desire to come to love Jesus in the year 2022.

6. Jesus From Others

Close your time together in letting each person share something they came to love about Jesus from something someone in the group shared during your time together.

- What do you love more about Our Heavenly Father, Jesus or Holy Spirit from what someone shared during our CG tonight?