

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

Warm Up - Read Sermon Passage and Corporate Worship Themes

We read the sermon passage, storyline and themes to warm our hearts and minds to remember what God has spoken to us in our time together Sunday morning.

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: Hebrews 10:24-25, 13:7-9 (ESV)

Title: Family Values of God's People: Gather & Build **Teacher:** Brown Peterson

10:24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. ... 13:7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹ Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.

The Storyline

As Christ followers and therefore His family, we gather to build. This is said many different ways "with" to "send", abide to transform, reflect to serve, know to encourage, faith to love, and believe to bless. We were once his enemies rebelling against him but now are His followers living to serve Him, his children and his enemies but to do that we must gather to worship and build each other up. Only then can we go to live out God's love in word and deed in these desperate times. We were arrogant, petty, proud, blind, slothful, harsh, rebellious but are now children of God blessed with a new heart and new strength to be a blessing by loving all those who are still enemies of God. Christ followers gather to get love, assurance, direction, encouragement, rest and renewal to go out build His Kingdom on a love offensive to display his glory to all the world. Essential to this work is the call to be discipled and to disciple. God wants all to be trained and be training. What fun! We are fueled by the coming of the Day of the Lord when all will give an account for what we have done and all will bow to Jesus as the one and only. This Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Themes:

- The Church, Jesus's Body, Bride
- Gather to Build to Send
- With to Send
- Stir Up – Violent Emotion
- Disciple – Learner
- Discipler – Trainer, Builder, Coach, walk with,
- Belong – Ex: Sutton Spy Club
- DNA – Ex: Chick Fil A, wrong order, no my pleasure
- Overwhelmed
- Fall apart – Cry to Jesus
- The Future drives the present passions

1. Launcher - (10 min)

- What group or team encouraged or inspires you to pursue greatness most consistently?
- What do you most admire about the members of the group?

2. Worship: The reason we Gather and what we build! (10 min)

Worship starts everything. Love for Him. Then Love in You for Him. And you have love for your neighbor. Worship is simply Him, You, Them. So worship begins by building us then we build others. Look at the rhythm in the verse prior to our sermon passage. Heb 10:23-25 ²³***Let us hold fast the confession*** of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴***And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,*** ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Worship in small group is our holding fast to our confession, encouraged, then we consider how to encourage.

Worship in Small Groups

Worship is central to our calling as human beings. We were built to delight in God's beauty and glory and to celebrate his deeds. We are summoned to praise and magnify God by focusing on his nature and actions. In worship we "ascribe to him the worth of which he is worthy." Until we are a worshipping people, we are spiritual paupers. Worship brings joy to God and pleases him. It also brings health to our souls and substance and weight to our lives.

In worship God gathers his people to himself as the center: 'The LORD Reigns'. Worship is meeting God at the center so that our lives are centered in God and not lived eccentrically. We worship so that we live in response to and from this center, the living God. Failure to worship consigns us to a life of spasms and jerks, at the mercy of every advertisement, every seduction, every siren. Without worship we live manipulated and manipulating lives. We move either in frightened panic or deluded lethargy as we are, in turn, alarmed by specters and soothed by placebos. If there is no center, there is no circumference. People who do not worship are swept into a vast restlessness, epidemic in the world, with no steady direction and no sustaining purpose. —Eugene Peterson

Now praise God for our need for Him and our need for each other to consider, gather, and build.

3. Sermon Reflection: (10 min)

The Church's Work to Gather

- Think of the different gatherings of the church. List the ways you are encouraged in the larger gatherings, smaller ones and then in your own personal times with Our Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit.
- "Shoulding", attending cuz "you should" can kill spirituality. How do you repent and believe when your heart has become numb to Holy Spirit in a gathering?

The Church's Work to Build

- What spiritual discipline or skill is most crucial for you during the first quarter of 2021? Who is in your life to disciple you in this area?
- Who are you discipling? What do you like to help or teach others to do?

The Overwhelmed Church's Hope

- What current need of the church is most overwhelming to you?
- Cry out to Jesus to raise up workers for His Harvest!

4. Kingdom Centered Prayer: (10 min)

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Adoration - Worship the Lord for his design to bring us in so we belong to Him, that we belong to the Church, that we are being built up, and we go out in the world to do His mission. Thank Him for people in the Church who have been used to love and grow you throughout your life.
2. Confession - Where have you gone to gather or to be built up that led you away from the Lord? In what ways have you neglected the blessing of the church in your life?
3. Thanksgiving - Give thanks to Jesus that He has sought you in your rebellion, paid for your sins when you were an enemy, gathered you into the Family of God, and loved you as His eternal sibling. Thank Him in the many ways He has built you up to where you are today.
4. Request Others - Who do you know that neglects to gather with the body of believers and avoids Christian discipleship? Pray to the Lord, who made you new, that He would do the same work in them.
5. Request Personal - Ask the Holy Spirit for continual help and strength in the massive and overwhelming mission work you are called to do for His Church. Thank Him for making you have to be dependent on Him for any good work to be done.

5. Mission: Prayer that Gather. Prayer that builds. (10 min)

Pray through Trinity Happenings! The link below should take you to our Trinity Events page. Copy and send the link to each person's phone or tablet. Then pray for each gathering, each event. Pray for folks to attend and be built up in their faith and love.

<https://mailchi.mp/a76c15ed2088/trinity-announcements-weekly-worship-links-8063920?e=81fc6b4557>

6. Jesus From Others (10 min)

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 Jesus from what someone shared during our CG tonight?