

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

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### **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 do you love about church?

**2. Worship God – Others. *We exist to serve them.* Read and Enjoy Matthew 20:25-28**

Worship God for the call to others and more specifically to serve others. I love being a Christian and I love the church. I love its calling. Its Head. I love its body. I love its chores

Matthew 20:25–28 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to him and said, *“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, <sup>28</sup> even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

**3. Sermon Reflection: Ephesians 4:7, 11-16 (12-29-21: Engaged In God’s Mission)****WHO IS THE CHURCH FOR?**

- What do we expect from the Church?
- How is the church like a hospital?
- How is the church like a wellness Center?

**WHOSE PEOPLE ARE WE ANY WAY?**

- What motivated Jesus to redeem people like us?
- How has Jesus made you whole, mature, and secure?
- Who has He called you to serve in the same way?

**ENGAGED IN HIS MISSION**

- What is significant about the term “engagement”?
- How has God gifted you to serve your church?
- How has God gifted you to serve those outside the church?

**4. Kingdom Centered Prayer:**

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Praise God that He has worked to restore you unto Himself *and* called you into His ultimate purposes for His world. Worship Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for not only saving you but giving you purpose.
2. How have you lived in a short-sighted or aimless way? Confess your pride and independence to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you, secure you and to move you in your heart to live for Him.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for how He has worked in the Gospel at the highest cost to Himself for *our* benefit! Thank Him for all He did on your behalf, giving His all to advantage you by His death and resurrection.
4. Who do you know that struggles with any sense of work? Pray for them that they would come to know their calling, especially in how God gives us personal meaning in His ultimate aims.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you discern your particular work in God’s kingdom, especially in how the Father has made you. Pray for insight – that by His Word, other believers, and His Spirit would guide you.

5. **Mission:** Mission alignment is mission critical.

Have fun reflecting on the following questions. Ask God to reveal His will for you. Ask Him to give you the heart for and passion to love and serve others to know His greatness, goodness, and love.

- Calling – what do you know without a doubt you should continue to do?
- Disengage - What do you need to stop doing?
- Engage – What do you need to start doing?

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 the church from what someone shared during our CG tonight?