

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.

Warm Up (OPTIONAL) - 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.

The Storyline – God’s Grace vs Our Hypocrisy

What a joy it is to be a Christian. What an adventure in both doings and being. Freedom. The theme and story line is that a Christ follower is free to be honest. A Christ follower is free to go on record against himself. A Christ follower is blessed by the indwelling Holy Spirit who is his intimate friend to convict of sin, convict of righteousness and convict of judgement.

Hypocrisy is to be an actor wearing a mask that covers the real us. We are now free as Christians to take the mask off because we are fully known, loved, and washed free from the wrath and displeasure of God and can now enjoy our forgiveness, righteousness, and adoption as children of God. No more shame and shaming. No more thoughtless guilt. No more hiding. No more defending. No more... No more.... We are now free to be loved and love. Free to yoke ourselves to Jesus. Free to confess our sins. Free to sing of the wonder of the work of God to save and transform us.

And now we go on a love offensive with a new Gospel zeal to serve the poor, love our enemy, feed the hungry, free the oppressed, give to the needy, and do all the good we can wherever we can all in response to the wonder and work of God done for us in Jesus.

Themes

- Lip Service
- Hypocrite
- Externalism
- Pharisees
- Inward Reality
- Failure
- Belief Systems
- Canaanite System
- I do – God owes me
- Go on record against myself
- God’s system
- God acts. We respond
- Masked Actor
- Biggest Sin against God
- God Backs His Commands
- Openness
- Transformation
- Fasting
- Pouring Out
- Jesus - river of living water

1. Launchers:

- Who is the biggest hypocrite you know?
- Why does hypocrisy bother us so much?

2. Worship God – Worship God that what He says He does and it comes from who he is!

True and False Fasting

58 “Cry aloud; do not hold back;
 lift up your voice like a trumpet;
 declare to my people their transgression,
 to the house of Jacob their sins.
 2 Yet they seek me daily
 and delight to know my ways,
 as if they were a nation that did righteousness
 and did not forsake the judgment of their
 God;
 they ask of me righteous judgments;
 they delight to draw near to God.
 3 ‘Why have we fasted, and you see it not?
 Why have we humbled ourselves, and you
 take no knowledge of it?’
 Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your
 own pleasure,
 and oppress all your workers.
 4 Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
 and to hit with a wicked fist.
 Fasting like yours this day
 will not make your voice to be heard on high.
 5 Is such the fast that I choose,
 a day for a person to humble himself?
 Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
 and to spread sackcloth and ashes under
 him?
 Will you call this a fast,
 and a day acceptable to the LORD?
 6 “Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of wickedness,
 to undo the straps of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?
 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
 and bring the homeless poor into your
 house;
 when you see the naked, to cover him,
 and not to hide yourself from your own
 flesh?

8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up speedily;
 your righteousness shall go before you;
 the glory of the LORD shall be your rear
 guard.
 9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
 you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’
 If you take away the yoke from your midst,
 the pointing of the finger, and speaking
 wickedness,
 10 if you pour yourself out for the hungry
 and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
 then shall your light rise in the darkness
 and your gloom be as the noonday.
 11 And the LORD will guide you continually
 and satisfy your desire in scorched places
 and make your bones strong;
 and you shall be like a watered garden,
 like a spring of water,
 whose waters do not fail.
 12 And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
 you shall raise up the foundations of many
 generations;
 you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
 the restorer of streets to dwell in.
 13 “If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath,
 from doing your pleasure on my holy day,
 and call the Sabbath a delight
 and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
 if you honor it, not going your own ways,
 or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;
 14 then you shall take delight in the LORD,
 and I will make you ride on the heights of the
 earth;
 I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your
 father,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

3. Sermon Reflection:

Isaiah 58:1-12 (10-31-21: God’s Grace vs. Our Hypocrisy)

Intro: How vulnerable are you to charges of hypocrisy?

CLAIMS WITHOUT CONDUCT

What is the core problem?

What is it to give “lip service”?

When have you been bothered by hypocrisy?

HIS GRACIOUS REPAIRS

How does this help us see (and trust) God’s work to redeem?

Confession – Call yourself what you are? And whose you are?

What if your slavery was ended?

DESIGNED TO IMAGE HIM

Why can we have confidence to follow His lead?

What is the obvious place or person of brokenness in your regular sphere of influence?

How can you make a difference?

4. Kingdom Centered Prayer:

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Worship the LORD for His integrity – that He is everything that He calls us to be. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His glorious purity and righteousness.

2. How have you lived inconsistently or hypocritically, welcoming help but rarely offering it to others? Confess your pride and self-interest to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to make you whole again.

3. Give thanks to Jesus for all that He has done to repair what we have ruined by our sin. Thank Him for breaking the bonds of our guilt, for healing us where we were ruined, and for always being *with* us.

4. Who do you know that struggles to care for others? Pray for them, asking the Lord to open their eyes to their hardness of heart, and that He would renew them to trust His love and then offer His love to others.

5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and goodness. Pray for Him to flood into your life with His life-giving power so that you would be equipped to help others the way that Jesus has helped you.

5. Mission: Believe the Gospel. Become the Gospel.

Tim Rice shared that his “go to” verse to help him rehearse the Gospel is Titus 2:13b-14. Read it. Preach it to yourself. Then think of attacking your chores this week with this new Gospel Zeal!

Titus 2:13b-14 the Glory of our God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

What are the chores God has for you this week to attack with Jesus’ Gospel zeal?

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 Jesus from what someone shared during our CG tonight?