

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:

- How joyful are you? Scale lowest to highest 1 – 10
- How joyful do your friends, co-workers, family members think you are? Scale lowest to highest 1 – 10
- How joyful are you, *especially in the midst of hardship?* ? Scale lowest to highest 1 – 10

2. Worship God – Bring your favorite “joy in the midst of hardship” worship song

Fun for everyone. What is your go to worship song that redirects your heart from the difficulties of life to the joys of heaven? Have the group pick out their favorite worship song for this season of life and share it with the group. If possible, have someone compile all the songs and put them together as a playlist then share the list so everyone can listen to the songs all week. During CG have each person introduce their song and then just listen. It becomes an amazing night of worship and joy. Blessings.

TimO's Example:

O Praise Him - All This for A King -David Crowder Band

<https://open.spotify.com/track/2iFqa5oxkAE3eJor4tVE8v?si=db608f5454234524>

Turn your ear
To heaven and hear
The noise inside
The sound of angels' awe
The sound of angels' songs
And all this for a King
We could join and sing
All to Christ the King

How constant, how divine
This song of ours will rise
O, how constant, how divine
This love of ours will rise
Will rise

O praise Him
O praise him
He is Holy
He is Holy (yeah)

Turn your gaze
To heaven and raise
A joyous noise
The sound of salvation come
The sound of rescued ones
And all this for a King
Angels join to sing
All for Christ our King

Oh la, la, la, la, la, la
How infinite and sweet
This love so rescuing
O, how infinitely sweet
This great love that has redeemed
As one we sing

Alleluia
Alleluia
He is Holy
He is Holy (yeah)

3. Sermon Reflection: Isaiah 61:1-7, 10-11 (11-14-21: People of Joy & Renewal)**UNIVERSAL HOPES & SORROWS**

Why do we all share dreams and disappointments?

- Dreams – we are created for Heaven
- Disappointments – we feel the distance between what was to be and what is.
 - Ashes – we burn down our lives in our sin and rebellion
 - Mourning – the cry of loss
 - Despair – Suffering over time
- When you “dropped the helmet”?
 - Tim’s Band of Brothers example of overwhelmed and unable to carry on due to despair.
- Is there anything happening in your life right now that makes you want to “drop your helmet”?

HEAVENLY REDEMPTION

How has God worked to save even people like us?

- God has sent His Messiah. Jesus, His One and Only, fully equipped to save to the uttermost those without hope.
- Tim’s transplant example: Transplant surgeries are all replacements where the old is discarded and the new is joyfully received in a life-saving effort (Prayer #3)
 - What old parts from your former way of living are you holding on to?
 - What parts have you not asked to be taken away?
 - What new parts do you take for granted?
 - Where you denied reality, downplaying how bad things truly are (that you need saving or replacement)?
 - How are you comforted by what Jesus offers *instead*?

EARTHLY ECHOES

What changes in the thinking and living of the redeemed?

- Wench analogy
- Stuck in the mud
- His work

4. Kingdom Centered Prayer:

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Worship the LORD for His kindness and mercy to soothe and heal us even when we often cause our own grief. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that He gives comfort to His people when we mourn.

2. How have you been burned to pieces (literally in “ashes”) by your sin? Confess your rebellion and folly to Jesus, asking Him to cleanse you and heal you from the bitterness of your sin.

3. Give thanks to Jesus that He was burned in hell in your place, and that raised in glory He can replace your ashes with beauty. Thank Him for the sheer power of His love and beauty over against the ugliness of your sin.

4. Who do you know that has believed (wrongly) that they are unreachable? Ask the Lord to win them with His love and even cause them to become our co-workers in His kingdom.

5. Ask the Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love, joy, and goodness. Pray for such an outpouring of His Spirit upon our city that believers would be revived, and unbelievers would come to trust Jesus.

5. **Mission:** “The Spirit is upon us to”

The Spirit is upon us to do the works of God that he has prepared for us from before the foundation of the world. This is a good work. Read Trinity’s 4th value Work then praise God for the work going on in our city and county that is resulting from Holy Spirit coming upon US AND MANY OF OUR CHRISTIAN BROTHER AND SISTERS. Pray for each ministry. Consider becoming a Gospel Patron for one of these special works of grace. Blessings.

Tim quoted from our 4th Value:

Work – a commitment to put our whole selves rigorously into this effort: The Gospel is also a story of how Jesus has worked on our behalf, literally giving His all to advantage us! In our culture, work is often selfish. The main focus is upon work that we like to do, at terms that we approve, and for our own goals. But in the Gospel Jesus has worked at the highest cost to Himself and for our benefit! Really evaluating the cost of following Jesus, it is hard work. It requires discipline and sacrifice and generosity and lots of time and effort. Yet because this is how Jesus has worked for us, it redefines our expectations about how we work and *view* work. Working with all our heart makes sense. Serving with others (God calls us a Body) and for the Lord is a joyful delight and privilege.

Causes or agencies:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| • VISTE, | • Light House Ministries, |
| • Parker Street Ministries, | • Salvation Army, |
| • United Way, | • Gospel Inc., |
| • Boys & Girls Clubs, | • SeeJesus |
| • Girls Inc., | • FCA, |
| • One More Child / Florida Baptist Children’s’ Homes, | • Campus Outreach, |
| • Foster Care, | • RUF, |
| • Guardian Ad Litum | • Cru, |
| • Adoption, | • Central Florida Speech & Hearing, |
| • A Woman’s Choice, | • Peace River, |
| • Achievement Academy, | • Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine, |

Churches and Church plants

- | | |
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| • CCPC, | • Greater Hope Mulberry, |
| • Redeemer Lakeland, | • Grace Community, |
| • Redeemer Winter Haven, | • King’s Church |
| • Strong Tower, | • and Lord willing, <i>more to come!</i> |

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?