

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.

Isaiah 60:1-3,18-22

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon
you.

² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon
you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.

³ And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

¹⁸ Violence shall no more be heard in your
land,
devastation or destruction within your
borders;

you shall call your walls Salvation,
and your gates Praise.

¹⁹ The sun shall be no more
your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon
give you light;
but the LORD will be your everlasting
light,

and your God will be your glory.

²⁰ Your sun shall no more go down,
nor your moon withdraw itself;
for the LORD will be your everlasting
light,
and your days of mourning shall be ended.

The Storyline –Light in Darkness, ON US. IN US. THROUGH US.

Jesus is the light ON US.

Jesus is the light IN US.

Jesus is the light Through US.

Light and darkness. Good and evil. Source and reflection. Hidden and revealed. Covered and displayed. Glory! Wonder! Awe! Transformation! Jesus is the light of the world. He shines in the darkness. He shines ON Us. He shines In Us. And He shines THROUGH US. His light becomes our light then we let our light, which is Jesus, shine through us in such a way that others see and give glory to Him. HIS GLORY IS OUR GREATEST GOOD! We are to manage the glory of God in us in such a way that He gets the credit.

Wow! Oh Wow! Glory Management of the Greatest Joy and Highest Adventure! I am all in!

Themes

- Light
- Darkness
- Arise
- Shine
- Glory
- Boasting
- Hidden
- Revealed
- Illumines
- Reflection
- Source

1. Launchers: Glory Management. Assigning Glory.

- Who are the people in your life that do the most good and get the least credit?
- What are essential chores that get no glory?
- When did someone steal your glory? When did someone get an award, a raise, a compliment that you deserved? How did you react?
- When have you stolen someone else's glory?

2. Worship God – “I am the light of the world.” Let your light so shine.... God gets the credit!

Worship God for his wonder, kindness, and blessings to you.

The Men that drive me Places – “I'll credit where credit is due.”

<https://open.spotify.com/track/3APS8tcJbI9zftvAziDmQz>

"The Men That Drive Me Places" – Ben Rector

Howard drives a minivan to the cruise ships
from Fort Lauderdale
And it's been that way since 1994
Does his business on a flip phone with the most
obnoxious ringtone
I didn't ask, but I can tell he's from New York
He spoke proudly of his daughter and that this
fall she'd be in college
And that he always wished he'd gotten his
degree
You can tell he came from nothing, built a
future out of hustling
And somehow I'm the one you people pay to
see

Oh isn't that just the way it goes
You're dealt a good hand and you get
celebrated
Oh, how am I the only one who knows
I'm half the man of the men who drive me
places

Danny showed up early, fifteen minutes till five
thirty
Making sure that I'd be on my morning flight
He said he'd love to fix computers, but that he
can't until he's fluent
So he spends his driving money taking class at
night

He wore a neatly ironed dress shirt, and he
helps his kids with homework
Deep inside I couldn't help but ask myself
Why that at night I'm up on stage, everybody
knows my name
While Danny's early picking up somebody else

Oh isn't that just the way it goes
You're dealt a good hand and you get
celebrated
Oh, how am I the only one who knows
I'm half the man of the men that drive me
places

And now everything's not given, I work hard to
make a living
I'll give credit where I think the credit's due
Maybe you got dealt a good hand
Maybe you play it the best that you can
But I don't know how far you'd walk without
those cards
In Howard or Danny's working shoes

But that's just the way it goes
You're dealt a good hand and you get
celebrated
Oh, how am I the only one who knows
I'm half the man of the men that drive me
places

3. Sermon Reflection:

Intro: When have you felt the deepest sense of purpose? *Isa. foretells hope*

THE GOODNESS OF LIGHT – *God IS light and shines on us.*

- What is significant about God's call for His people to arise and shine?
 - *Filled with His light*, we live in such a way that *He* is reflected by how we live
 - Light illumines things that could be overlooked. And we illumine things *with light that we never generate; we aim what someone else has generated*
- We have a form of glory, but it is derived, not inherent (*moon, not sun*)
- Where do you need to get up (arise and shine)?

THE TRAGEDY OF DARKNESS – *self-interest destroys and enslaves*

- What do we know about darkness and its power?
- How can you be out of position *and therefore lose your light*?

THE EXPLOSION OF GRACE – *He outshines even the sun*

- Why is it remarkable that we would be called the light of *the world*?
 - *Let YOUR LIGHT so shine before men that they see YOUR GOOD WORKS and glorify God who is in heaven.*
 - Our future is glorious, *a city on a hill cannot be hidden*
 - God's agenda has always been global.
- *How does Jesus' light (glory) help you walk by faith even if your world is dark?*

4. Kingdom Centered Prayer:

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD that HE *is* Light and that in Him is no darkness. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for how He is glorious, and that He has caused His glory to shine even upon sinners like us.
 2. How have you lived claiming for yourself what is only God's? Confess your selfish pride to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to heal you to freely share with others what He has freely given to you.
 3. Give thanks to Jesus that *no* one and *not one thing* can outshine Jesus. Thank Him for quenching darkness with His relentless light, dying to atone for guilt and being raised to seal our victory.
 4. Who do you know that struggles with a greater sense of purpose – one in keeping with God's heart and character? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them see His worth and love, and to move them to engage in His Kingdom.
 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and goodness. Pray for a greater sense of His glory (worth) shining upon you, and that you would be motivated to share His love meaningfully with others.
5. **Mission:** Glory Management – Now they know everything you have given me is from YOU! Jesus prayed in John 17:6 Now they know everything you have given me is from you.
- How can you go about your chores this week in such a way that God gets the credit?
 - Who can you do good to this week, shed the light of God on them, so that they come to know and love God more because of your care for them?

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?