

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.

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: Hebrews 11:32-39; Judges 4:1-23 (ESV) **Title:** By Faith: Barak

Teacher: Tucker Scruggs

The Storyline – Our Glorious Design of Weakness reveals to us God's Glorious strength!!

What a great morning to find the heart of God in our journey and struggles through the Grand Adventures of God's design and plan. Jonny Diaz sums up Tucker's words for us today in his song "Chance" and the chorus, "Learning every hard time that seems slow is just another chance, chance to know You more." So our only hope is to kneel at the foot of the cross enjoying His greatness for us in our weaknesses. Come to Jesus. Believe on HIM! Rest in HIM! Drink of HIM! Paul Miller writes, "I have never seen anyone who hangs in there and keeps going back to the cross of Jesus that does not find the power of sin greatly diminish over time." Read the lyrics below then listen. Spend the day worshipping God for his Greatness.

Jonny Diaz - Chance – Lyrics

<https://open.spotify.com/track/1LXMkjMc8wFizzW336b6Oq?si=zlxx8hJYQ8Ks3Ffb7HAQUA>

Just to know you more
So many times I've prayed this prayer before
And then right on cue
Another valley that I must walk through
I wanna cry out let this pass from me
But theres so much I'd miss cause now I see

Hurting is a chance to find you as a healer
Lonely is a chance to fall into your love
Broken is a chance to know you as redeemer
Empty is a chance to find that you're enough
Learning every hard time that seems slow
Is just another chance
A chance to know you more

Won't give in to fear
Even when your ways are far from clear
I won't run and I won't doubt
I'll embrace the place you have me now
And every heartache that I'm called to face
You help me find it create a of grace

Hurting is a chance to find you as a healer
Lonely is a chance to fall into your love
Broken is a chance to know you as redeemer
Empty is a chance to find that you're enough
Learning every hard time that seems slow
Is just another chance
A chance to know you more
Each day

And the trials they can make a way
For me to love your heart
And a little more of who you are
Aching is a chance to find you as my comfort
Fearful is a chance to feel you by my side
Failing is a chance to fall into your mercy
Needing is a chance to know that you'll provide
Hurting is a chance to find you as a healer
Lonely is a chance to fall into your love
Broken is a chance to know you as redeemer
Empty is a chance to find that you're enough
Learning every hard time that seems slow
Is just another chance
A chance to know you more

Themes

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|------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| • Our Weakness | • Helpless | • 10,000 men |
| • God's Strength | • Brokenness | • Faith |
| • Barak, Deborah | • Scared, Anxiety | • Power |
| • Kishon river | • Running to the fight | • Dependence |
| • Mountains | • 900 Chariots | • Relationship |

1. Launchers: The Weak Become The Strong (10 min)

- When have you felt the weakest that God became the Greatest?

2. Worship – Finding God great through our weakness to our Delight. (10 min)

Be strong in the Lord. Enjoy these passages. Read through them and then read them again pausing to praise God for his greatness that is a perfect match to our great need of Him.

Exodus 15:1–3 (ESV) ¹ Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. ² The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. ³ The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name.

Psalm 19 (ESV) TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID.

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his
handiwork.

²Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals
knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there
words,
whose voice is not heard.

⁴Their voice goes out through all the
earth,
and their words to the end of
the world.
In them he has set a tent for the
sun,

⁵which comes out like a bridegroom
leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man,
runs its course with joy.

⁶Its rising is from the end of the
heavens,
and its circuit to the end of
them,
and there is nothing hidden from
its heat.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving
the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is
pure,
enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever; the rules of the
LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover, by them is your servant
warned;
in keeping them there is great
reward.

¹²Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden
faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from
presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over
me!
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

3. Sermon Reflection: By Faith: Barak (10 min)

Introduction: Where do you feel broken and weak?

Our Weakness – What do you bring to the table?

- Why do we seem allergic to being able to enjoy our weak design and brokenness?
- What has the transition been like for you to begin to give God credit for in and for all things at all times?
- What do you bring to the table – at work, at home, in your marriage, in family, in friendships, with your enemies?

God's Strength – What does God bring to the table?

- What are the victories Tucker listed in Israel's recent past? Why did they disbelieve in the face of God's work on their behalf?
- What are the victories of God in your life? Why is it hard for you to believe and be bold in your faith in Him?
- What does God bring to the table – at work, at home, in your marriage, in your family, in your friendships, with your enemies?

The Unlikely Path to Strength – How does faith lead to strength in our weakness?

- How does your life work when you attempt things in your own strength rather than trust and look to God?
- How is God using your weaknesses to demonstrate to you and others his great strength?
- How does our faith lead to strength in our weakness?
- How do we see this patterned celebrated in Jesus?

4. Kingdom Centered Prayer: (10 min)

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Praise God for how unlike us He is. Our weakness reveals God's power to save.
2. How have you tried to fix your weakness in your own strength? In what ways do you doubt God's ability to save weak people? Confess this pride and unbelief, acknowledging that Jesus died for us "while we were still sinners."
3. Give thanks to Jesus for the ways that He took weakness upon Himself, in order that we might be united with the Father.
4. Who do you know that is struggling with weakness right now? Pray that the Lord would be their strength and hope in the midst of their trials.

5. Mission: Glory in our Weakness so other's Glory in God's Strength (10 min)

Jesus prayed in John 17, "Now they know everything you have given me is from You." Our mission this week is to live, talk, and present ourselves in such a way that everyone we live work and play with knows that all we are and have is from God, our Heavenly Father.

- Think and pray about the week ahead. How can you live, work and play in such a way that in every interaction it is evident that you not only need God but are addicted to Him?
- Ask your co-workers how you can be a better friend to them and serve them?
- Ask God how you can attempt things so great that only He can get the credit when they happen?
- Pray for the renown of God to fill our city, county, nation and world.

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?