

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**The Storyline – God Provides Himself a king in David. HE PROVIDES THE KING OF KINGS IN JESUS!**

King David – Weaker than Saul so a better King than Saul

King Saul was selected by the people. King Saul fails because he listens to the voice of the people. So because Saul rejects God. God rejects Saul. God has a work to do so He picks the King to get the work done. God wants to establish His Kingdom. David is a man, just a man, but he is after God's own heart. David is to write the law of God, have the priest inspect it and then keep it with him all the days of his life to do them.

Jesus – Weaker than King David so a better King than David. Jesus is The KING of KINGS

Jesus is God's King of Kings. Kings were to write the law in his own handwriting. Jesus did that when He wrote the 10 Commandments on the tablets of stone. Kings were to keep the law with them all the days of their life. Jesus not only keeps the law of God with Him, but Jesus is The Word of God. Kings were to be cautious of the number of horses they have so they don't get powerful and proud. King Jesus not only has NO horse but rides on a borrowed donkey. When fearful and threatened, Kings of Israel were to not go back to Egypt for horses or aid even at the threat of their own life. Jesus when under the condemnation and death threat of God does not look to Egypt or anywhere else. Jesus looks only to God and as He is dying continues to Himself to God by saying, "Into your hands I commit my spirit". Kings of Israel were to limit their wealth. Jesus dies naked with no property, not even a robe. Jesus, GOD'S KING OF KINGS, becomes poor so that we might become rich. The kings of Israel were to not turn to the right or left in keeping the statutes of God. All the kings of Israel failed in their attempts, even the best of them. Where others fail... Jesus succeeds. Jesus never gives the world even the slightest glance. At His baptism, God announces, "This is my Son in whom I am well pleased". After the resurrection in the tomb speaking with Mary Magdalene, "I go to My God and your God, My Father and your Father." King Jesus is the perfect lamb that was slain for the world.

THE WARNING TO THE KINGS OF ISRAEL IS TO BE CAUTIOUS IN THEIR ASCENTION.

THE WONDER OF JESUS, GOD'S KING OF KINGS, IS THE DEPTH OF HIS CONDESCENTION TO SAVE GOD'S PEOPLE FROM THEIR SIN AND DELIVER THEM FROM THIS PRESENT EVIL AGE.

Themes

- Weakness
- Strength
- Whose voice?
- Called
- David
- Samuel
- Hannah
- Condescends
- Phone – Voices
- World – Habituates
- Gold ring in pigs nose

1. Launchers : (10 min)

- How have you been shaped by society’s emphasis:
- On appearances? • On Wealth? • On Position?
- On Power? • On Comfort? • On Information?

2. Worship God for Providing for Himself Jesus, The King of Kings

Read the passage then praise God for setting Jesus as king over us. Jesus, the Word become flesh to dwell among us. Rejoice. God has provided for Himself and us the perfect King who gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from this evil age. Jesus is the perfect fulfillment of this description of the King God would set over His people. Rejoice! Our King has come.

Deuteronomy 17:14–20 (ESV)

¹⁴ “When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, ‘I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,’ ¹⁵ you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. ¹⁶ Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall never return that way again.’ ¹⁷ And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

¹⁸ “And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, ²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

3. Sermon Reflection:

Hebrews 11:32; 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (By Faith: David, Called By God)

WHAT MATTERS TO GOD

- Why does the LORD and His Word define all life and purpose?
- What is on the heart of God?
- What matters to God?
- What matters to you?
- Who owns you?

OUR WORLD’S LOVE OF IMAGE -

- How are we defined by the things of this world?
- How does your phone define who you are, what you do and how you feel?
- How does entertainment seek to define what matters to you and what matters to God?

GOD’S WAY OF REVERSING THE WORLD

- How again, do we see God’s use of weakness? Why is weakness so attractive to God?
- How many times has God called you? What is your answer?

4. Kingdom Centered Prayer:

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Worship the LORD as God, all-wise! Praise and adore Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that as He knows all things and that He is holy in all His ways, especially where He has worked through suffering.
2. How have you lived more affected by appearances in this world than you have shaped by God and His Word? Confess your sin – your distortion of God’s reality – to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and heal you.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for how He does not look on outward appearances but on the heart! Thank Him that knowing what was in our heart He humbled Himself even to death in order to save us.
4. Pray for any ministry you are aware of that pursues the work of serving those who are humiliated and broken, eschewing what this world loves. Pray for them, asking the Lord to equip and empower them for His work.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in being defined by His heart, by His Word, rather than being defined by the things of this world. Pray for growth in pure faithfulness even when this world rejects Him and His character!

5. Mission: A Copy of the Law Our Constant Companion

Christians are people on mission and to know our mission is to know the heart of the one who set us on mission. God sends. We go. The heart of God is revealed in His Law. Read the following passage. Notice how the king of Israel was to use and have the law the way we use and have our phones. Amazing that evil controls us using the same patterns and habits of how God frees us.

¹⁸ “And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, ²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

- Copy Exodus 20:1-17 by hand.
- Carry your copy with you all week like your phone.
- Read it every hour and pray for God to reveal His heart to you.
- Record what happens to your heart in the morning, noon and evening.

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?