

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 – Tim Rice

Text: Hebrews 11:32-34; 1 Samuel 17:2-4, 10-11, 23-26, 32-37, 40-51 (ESV) **Title:** By Faith: David's Victory

Teacher: Tim Rice

The Storyline – God's Grand Adventure

God's Grand Adventure is a battle, His battle. The Lord has planned warfare for this epic of our eternity, the Old Heaven and the Old Earth. It is not in His design to continue in the next epic of the New Heaven and the New Earth. So, what is God doing or accomplishing in this wartime period? War and battles are a temporary but essential part of our training in faith, hope and love. They are perfectly designed for us to come to know God as our Heavenly Father, Jesus as our One and Only Savior and Holy Spirit as our great friend, trainer, confidant and most unique squadron leader.

Goliaths are overwhelming. Goliath's taunt. Goliaths are loud, brash, arrogant, powerful, threatening, menacing, vulgar, scary, and most of all frightening. Goliath's kill, destroy, punish, disrupt, disfigure. They bring panic, discouragement, fear, self-doubt, causing confusion and disorientation.

Why, oh why does God allow or desire that His people have and live in Goliath times? Simple. So, they will look to Him, depend on Him then to find Him most glorious and great. Our trauma, His glory. Our weakness, His greatness. Our fears, His strength. Our need, His victory. No battle. No wonder.

A Crisis of Faith:

- Jesus is the "Crisis Creator" so that we might know Him as the "Christ-est Creator".
- A crisis of faith produces the Christ-est of Faiths!
- A crisis of faith is when what is required of us exceeds our resources.
- Crisis Avoidance produces Christ Avoidance.
- To keep your life IN crisis – causes you to live the Christ-est of lives.
- External trauma causes internal renewal.
- Holy Spirit's work is not about our sinlessness or sinfulness. It is about our dependence and His Greatness.

Themes

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|----------------|
| • David | • Unrest | • Calculating |
| • Goliath | • God's work | • Philistines |
| • Fears | • Threats | • Victory |
| • Trust | • Taunts | • Unimaginable |
| • Covid | • Anxiety | |

1. Launchers: Your Favorite Crisis

- What is the crisis that God has used to your greatest or highest good?
- How long were you afraid or anxious before God brought victory?
- What is the relationship between time, victory and amazement?

2. Worship: The Battle is the Lord's, and He shall deliver.

Read Deuteronomy 20:1-4 and 1 John 4:4. Worship God before the battle, in the battle and after the battle. Worship God for the battle. Worship God for battles. Worship God by being battle ready, battle eager, battle trained. Worship God for all He accomplishes in the battles He allows us to join and fight with and for Him.

Deuteronomy 20:1–4 (ESV) 20 “When you go out to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. ² And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people ³ and shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them, ⁴ for the Lord your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.’

1 John 4:4, 13-14 (ESV) ⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.... ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

3. Sermon Reflection:

Hebrews 11:32-34; 1 Samuel 17:2-4, 10-11, 23-26, 32-37, 40-51 (David)

UNBELIEF & FEAR

- What does it look like to have a fear-dominated imagination?
- What fears captivate your thinking?
- How often does your fear thinking end resting in God's good plan, love and power?
- What happens if they don't?

Fear is the emotional conclusion of unbelief. Fear is to ponder the future as if God got satisfaction out of being mean to you. For God to build our faith, his grand adventure would have to include overwhelming circumstances so that we would learn to trust Him. Therefore, anxiety is to think of the Grand Adventure of God as an atheist.

FAITH IN GOD'S WORD & POWER

- What does it mean to have faith in circumstances?
 - What are we like when things go well for us as we trust our circumstances?
 - What happens when things go poorly?
- What does it mean to have faith in God?
- Why does God bring you into overwhelming circumstances?
- What if you learned to avoid the overwhelming circumstances of God?
- What happens to our faith when it is not exercised?

UNIMAGINABLE VICTORY

What is significant about David's victory?

How did David trust in the work of God?

How did previous works of God shape his current thinking?

How is God's glory on display in you through His unimaginable Victory in Jesus?

4. Kingdom Centered Prayer:

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Worship the LORD for His sovereign power over all of His enemies. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His victory over evil, especially in Jesus' death and resurrection.
2. How have you lived with more confidence in the things of this world than you have in Jesus and His Word? *Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to heal your heart to be truly loyal to Him, your King.*
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His victory over selfishness and sin by His faithful obedience. And thank Him for defeating death, hell, and Satan by His resurrection, *freely sharing His victory to anyone who trusts in Him.*
4. Who do you know that has led you by walking in faith rather than walking in the ways of this world? Pray for them, giving thanks for their influence, and asking the Lord to help them only to trust the LORD more.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow you in your trust of God's Word. Pray for the Spirit to work His fruit of faithfulness into your heart, and that you would live out Jesus' victory over the worst things that threaten us!

5. Mission: The Battle is the Lord's! Once the battle is enjoined ...

Dad fought in World War II and some of the best of who he is was shaped by his time in the battle. Dad would wake us up on Saturday workdays the same way each week. He'd come in loud and large announcing, *"Chow down for the combat troops! All ashore that's goin' ashore! And remember boys today is going to be a great day for you!"* Another of his favorite sayings was, *"Once the battle is enjoined, the outcome is in the hands of the junior officers"*.

- What is your role in the Lord's battle this week?
- As you think of the week ahead, what is your role to encourage, equip and even train with the Army of God?
- God's battle plan is for us to go on a love offensive. Who has God placed in your life to love this week through words of honesty and works of compassion?

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?