

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

The Storyline – Sabbath Recalibration, Out-Back: Out into Creation and Providence, Back into the lab of Our Heavenly Father.

6 Days out. 1 Day Back. 6 Days working. 1 Day re-connecting. 6 days in His creation doing His doings. 1 day in His heart feeling His feelings.

Out into the world of wonder, beauty, and danger, full of excitement and challenges, joys and sorrows, opportunity, and threats.

Back into talking, singing, musing, reflecting, praying, confessing, wondering, amazement, worship, humility, greatness, incomparable delight.

Themes

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| • Fight | • 6 days | • Liberating |
| • Labor in Love | • 1 day | • Life Giving |
| • Identity | • Freedom | • Enslaving |
| • Job or work | • Benefits | • Present |
| • Labor | • Career | • Past |
| • Love | • Vocation | • Future |
| • Rest in Him | • Grace | |

1. Launchers :

- What is your life like when you live with God as the center?

2. Worship as Recalibration

From Death to Life. From Conform to Transform. Both worship and wisdom begin with wonder. Bless your heart with the wonder of God. Fear. Love. Delight. Joy. Amaze. Ascribe. Bless with all your heart. With all. With all. And then love and wonder more and more and more forever and ever. Amen and Amen.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus... 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them

Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3. Sermon Reflection: Sabbath as Recalibration, Deuteronomy 5:6, 12-15

Reflect on the Sabbath Sermon series. This is our fourth sermon. Read the list below of the different emphasis of each sermon on Sabbath then ask how each as impacted them or changed their view of Sabbath.

Sabbath Sermon Series

1. Sabbath as Stop
2. Sabbath as Rhythm
3. Worship – to Gather Together
4. Recalibration – Counterculture

Intro: How are we in an unseen war with the world's culture and how does Sabbath help us?

WHAT ARE WE BUILT FOR?

- How is our sense of self or identity shaped by our work?
- Why do we seem to find our identity in our work?
- How does our design to work help us know and love God?

HOW DO WE FIGHT OUR DESIGN?

- How is life without Grace (work or rest) enslaving?
 - How is work slavery?
 - How is rest slavery
- What is the sin in being a workaholic?
- What is the sin in being lazy or sloppy?
- What is the danger of work success?
- What is the danger of retirement?

LIBERATING, LIFE-GIVING GRACE

- How is God's work of Grace liberating and life-giving?
- Why is it great to get to labor for 6 days?
- Why is it great to get to Sabbath 1 day a week?

Application:

- Plan your Sabbath day to refresh, renew and recalibrate or tune your heart to God.
 - What would you do?
 - What would you not do?
 - List - Activities of refreshment
 - List - Distractions off God
 - List - God orienting practices

4. Kingdom Centered Prayer:

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Worship the LORD who has worked and rested and made us in His likeness so that we can know Him. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that His work is trustworthy and marvelous.
2. How have you lived as if your work is yours, and that its benefits are solely yours? Confess your pride and selfishness to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and change you into His likeness.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for the miracle of His work to save you. Thank Him for His generosity and love to so freely share the impact of His work to actually give you rest and wholeness.
4. Who do you know that loves things and uses people (rather than the other way around)? Pray for them asking the Father to help them to learn how to truly love people, and how to not love things so much.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and goodness. Ask Him to bolster you in your work and fuel you in your Sabbath rest to not be squeezed into this world's mold but to be transformed into His likeness.

5. Mission: Vocation vs. Career, Calling vs Personal Preference

Christians are people on mission, His mission that becomes their mission. Christians are called to His Gospel that becomes their Gospel. Christians are laborers working in His Harvest field.

Read Richard Lovelace's reflections from his book, *Dynamics of Spiritual Life*:

"The ultimate concern of many church members is not [to worship and serve] Christ in [sharing the Gospel and sharing His love], but rather survival and success in their secular [career]. The church is a spoke on the wheel of life connected to the secular hub. It is a departmental sub-concern, *not* the organizing center of all other [interests]. Church members who have been conditioned all their lives to devote themselves to building their own kingdom and whose flesh naturally gravitates in that direction anyway find it hard to invest much energy in [God's kingdom]. They go to church once or [even] *twice* a week and punch the clock, so to speak, fulfilling their 'church obligation' by sitting passively and listening critically or approvingly to [what the pastor teaches].

"Sometimes with great effort we... may repeat the catchwords of the theology of grace, but many of us have little deep awareness that we and other Christians are 'accepted in the Beloved.' Since our understanding of [the gospel] is marginal or *unreal* – anchored not to Christ, but to some conversion experience in the past or to an imagined present state of goodness in our lives – we know little of the dynamic [power] of God's work to fully justify us. Our understanding of sin focuses upon behavioral externals which we can eliminate from our lives by a little will power and ignores the great submerged continents of pride, covetousness and hostility beneath the surface... Our religious lives, however, do not satisfy our consciences at the deepest level, and so there is a powerful underlying insecurity in our lives. Consciously we defend ourselves as dedicated Christians who are as good as anybody else, but underneath the conscious level there is deep despair and self-rejection."

- What is your ultimate concern this week?
 - For your family
 - For your co-workers
 - For your neighbors
 - For yourself

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?