

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 – The Great Exchange**

There are many great things about being a Christ follower but few better than the exchange of our fears to trust the promises of God and be moved to freedom from sin, wrath, and condemnation. God knows our name. God calls us by name. God loves us. Floods, Flames, and slavery are opportunities for us to no longer deny our need and helplessness but actually turn and embrace the weakness of who we are so that we would cry out to the greatness of who He is.

God's is amazing and never boring. We are needy yet unaware. As God works through Holy Spirit to reveal our sin and rebellion, He does it in love and out of His love for us. God exchanges Jesus for us so that we can exchange our fears for freedom as we come to know Him as He knows Himself and ourselves for who we are. LORD – I AM THAT I AM. The chaos of our unbelief moves us by Holy Spirit to the shalom of God confidences.

Themes

- Fear
- Confidence
- LORD – YHWH Name
- Lord – Adonai Title
- Boring
- Amazing
- Redeemer
- Creator
- True condition
- Flood, Flame, Slave
- Need, Needy
- Humble, Humbled
- Security
- Mercy
- Wonder
- I love you.

1. Launchers:

- How do you handle fear?
- What is God accomplishing in your relationship with Him by having you live under constant threat?

2. Worship God- Ascribe to God the Glory due His Name

Big Picture, Eternal, Global, Transcendence of God

Now, make it personal, intimate, Immanence of God

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Worship God for His Works. | • Worship God for what He has done in you. |
| • Worship God for His Words. | • Worship God for what He is doing in you. |
| • Worship God for His worth. | • Worship God for what He will do for you. |
| • Worship God for what He has done. | • |
| • Worship God for what He is doing. | |
| • Worship God for what He is going to do. | |

29 A Psalm of David.

- ¹ Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

Jeremiah 9:23–24 (ESV) ²³ Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

1 Timothy 1:15–17 (ESV)

¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

3. Sermon Reflection:

WHO HE IS?

- Who is God? How would you describe Him with a word or a sentence? Let the group fill the room with their sense of who God is.
- Who is God? How does God describe Himself? How do those in His presence now describe Him? (Rev 4 and 5)

WHO WE ARE?

- Why is needing a Savior humbling and *not* a position of pride?
- In light of the exposure of your true condition (in sin), how do you defend? Or deny? Or seek distraction? Or detach?

WHAT HE HAS DONE TO RESCUE US.

- Why does the LORD call us to not be afraid?
- Do you have *any* sense of security from what God promises? *In the gospel, Jesus recreates, renames, and redirects our entire identity!*
- In any scenario, *where you are a witness*, are you the main actor?? *THIS is the essence of being someone who trusts in Jesus. HE is the only hero*

4. Kingdom Centered Prayer:

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Worship the LORD in His Almighty power, love and His saving Presence. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His surpassing glory and worth.

2. How have you doubted Jesus' work to rescue you (*the evidence is in your fear – you are afraid because you're not truly resting in His grace*)? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to cleanse you and help you.

3. Give thanks to Jesus for His work to rescue us from all that is wrong with us. Thank Him for being willing to exchange His life for ours, to take the place we deserve for trying to take the place only He deserves.

4. Who do you know that live in fear? Pray for them (and being ready to be used by God) asking the Lord to provide for them relief from their anxieties and fears.

5. Ask the Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and peace. Ask Him to teach you more about what it means to be loved by the Father, atoned by the Son, and for Him to be with you, especially in the context of fear.

5. Mission: Christian's on mission to bring peace to chaotic and chaos to those at peace.

Christians are people on mission to disturb the comfortable and to comfort the disturbed. Think about the week ahead and those God will put in your path.

- Where are you in chaos and need to realize the love and promises of God for you?
- Where are you at peace and need a good kick in the butt from Holy Spirit?
- Who will you meet that is in chaos? How can you comfort them with the love and character, power and goodness of God?
- Who in your life is at peace that needs you to challenge them to the reality and opportunity to get in the game and make a difference?

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?