GARDEN CITY
CHURCH

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Community Groups are gatherings of believers designed to both build community and reach the community. Below is a guide to help make your engagement and (for the leaders) facilitation more meaningful, effective, and fruitful.

VISION

- To develop community centered around a mission–the Great Commission
    - Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and Of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

STRUCTURE

- Discovery Bible Study

    - The Discovery Bible Study is an action-based, question-driven format that helps groups build community, impact those around them, and encounter God through reading and obeying His word. The 4-by-4 outline and Creation-to-Christ scripture list below will help you guide others on the journey of discovery:

      I Share (Community & Serving)
      1. What are you thankful for?
      2. What has been difficult or discouraging?
      3. What are some of the needs around you?
      4. How can we help with these things?

      II. Review (Accountability)
      1. What did we read and talk about last time?
      2. Whom did you share with & how did it go?
      3. How did you do with your "I will" commitment?
      4. How did you help with the needs?

III. Read & Retell (Understanding)

1. Have the passage/story read twice.
2. Have one or two people retell it.
3. Ask the group if anything was missed or added.
4. Review the passage, if necessary.

IV. Discover (Transformation)

1. What does this teach us about God?
2. What does this teach us about ourselves/humans?
3. In response to all this, what will you do or change?*
4. With whom will you share what you learned?

*Create an "I will" statement. "I will" statements should include a measurable action and an initial step you can take within 48 hours.

Example: "I will _____ and will _____ within 48 hours."

- Creation to Christ Scripture List:

1. Genesis 1:1-2:3
2. Genesis 2:4-24
3. Genesis 3:1-13
4. Genesis 3:14-24
5. Genesis 6:5-7:24
6. Genesis 8:1-9:17
7. Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-7
8. Genesis 22:1-19
9. Exodus 12:1-28
10. Exodus 20:1-21
11. Leviticus 4:1-35
12. Isaiah 53
13. Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20
14. Matt 3; John 1:29-34
15. Matthew 4:1-11
16. John 3:1-21
17. John 4:1-26; 39-42
18. Luke 5:17-26
19. Mark 4:35-41
20. Mark 5:1-20
21. John 11:1-44

22. Matthew 26:26-30
23. John 18:1-19:16
24. Luke 23:32-56
25. Luke 24:1-35
26. Luke 24:36-53
27. John 3:1-21

The 7 Ps

- There are 7 Ps are additional rhythms and practices that can be used for a Community Group. You will notice that some overlap with steps in the Discovery Bible Study, while others are independently designed to help increase the fruitfulness of your gathering. Overall, they will increase the ability of the members to effectively build community and reach the community.

    - **Proclaim** – share testimonies (1 Peter 2:9)
    - **Praise** – sing and worship the Lord together (Psalm 105:2)
    - **Partner**– to strengthen and encourage one another (Proverbs 27:17)
    - **Practice** – do one of the 6 pillars or a D.B.S. (1 Timothy 4:15)
    - **Plan** – strategize on how to reach the lost (Proverbs 21:5)
    - **Pray** – pray for the lost & territories the member of the group are trying to individually and/or collectively reach (Colossians 4:2-4)
    - **Play**– Have fun together (Nehemiah 8:10)

- **1- PROCLAIM**
    - Proclaim God's goodness and share testimonies of what He's doing, especially in the area of gospel interactions.
        - 1 Peter 2:9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may <u>proclaim</u> the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- **2- PRAISE**
    - Corporate singing & prayer
        - Psalm 105:2 - Sing to him, sing <u>praises</u> to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice!
    - Examples of ways to do this are through songs via youtube or with live music from members of the group.

- **3- PARTNER**
    - Partner together in sets of 2 or 3 to strengthen and encourage one another in the areas of your spiritual walk (e.g. reading, praying, and obeying), and action items from the previous commitment/action-items (e.g. “I will” statements, follow-ups with lost people, etc.).
        - Proverbs 27:17 - As iron sharpens iron, so <u>one person sharpens another</u>.
    - If you are doing a Discovery Bible Study (D.B.S.) at your meeting, there is a built-in section to help facilitate partnering (i.e. the review/accountability section). If you are not doing a D.B.S. during the gathering (e.g. you are practicing one of the 6 pillars), you can use the KICKOFF questions to help facilitate partnering. There are five parts to the KICKOFF, which can be remembered by the phrase, “UP, DOWN, AROUND, OUT, and IN”.
        - UP is the high point of a person's week. Ask something like, “What are you thankful for this week?”
        - DOWN is the low point of their week. Ask something like, “What has been difficult or discouraging?” Follow up by asking something like, “What would help make things better?” You and/or the group may not be able to help in every way needed, but simply asking is a great way to show love and concern.
        - AROUND has to do with the needs of people around those in the group. Ask something like, “What are some of the needs in your community?”, and “How can I/we help?” This is a critical question because it serves as a reminder to love those outside of the group.
        - OUT is about the outward interaction of sharing whatever was covered the last time you met. Ask something like, “Who did you share the passage with, or teach the tool to? How did it go?”
        - IN helps to look inward and evaluate how each person is doing in their spiritual walk and in completing their previous commitments. Ask something like, “How is your walk and time with the Lord?” “How did follow-up with your neighbor go?”

- **4- PRACTICE**
    - Do a D.B.S. or one of the 6 pillars to grow in familiarity and proficiency.
        - 1 Timothy 4:15 - <u>Practice</u> these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.
    - Use the Disciple Making Training guide for the pillars, and the Creation-to-Christ scripture list for D.B.S., also found in the guide (CLICK HERE).

- **5- PLAN**
    - Plan and strategize ways to pursue the lost and gain new territory.
        - Proverbs 21:5 - The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.
    - Examples of this could be through the Daily Prayer Calendar, a collective block party, or beginning/joining an interest group (e.g. a mom's play group or run club).

- **6- PRAY**
    - Pray for the lost and your plans to engage them.
        - Colossians 4:2-4 - Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.
- **7- PLAY**
    - Have fun and celebrate victories together!
        - Nehemiah 8:10 - Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink the sweet drinks and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."
    - Set a rhythm to meet just to have fun. E.g. once a quarter, the last week of every month, every other month, etc.

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

- **Proclaim** – share testimonies (15 minutes)
- **Praise** – sing and worship the Lord together (15 minutes)
- **Partner**– to strengthen and encourage one another (20-25 minutes)
- **Practice** – do one of the 6 pillars or D.B.S. or (25-35 minutes)
- **Plan** – strategize on how to reach the lost (20 minutes)
- **Pray** – pray for the lost & territories the member of the group are trying to individually and/or collectively reach (15 minutes)
- **Play**– have fun together (your discretion)
- **Total**: 110-125 minutes