LEARNING TO LOVE AGAIN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS REVELATION 2:1-7



How have you been blessed by community group or a similar ministry in the past? In what ways can community groups help you in your Christian life? What are you most looking forward to about being back together in community groups?

We use a picture of a house to describe the way we are to live with those that are part of Gospel Grace Church. Take a moment to think through each room as a group.

- 2 Dining Room INSTRUCTING The word is our life, and we must speak it and share it one with another. In the dining room, we have guests over and share food and conversation together. In biblical community, we share literal food together as well as the food of studying, listening to, and speaking the word to one another. Each of us prepares a part of the meal of the Word and we share it with one another. (Acts 2:42, Matthew 4:4)
 - Read Proverbs 10:11, Eph 4:15-16. Col 3:16. Is your hearing of the Word completely dependent on the Pastors? List a few ways that you are to give and receive the word.
 - A What practical ways do you as a member of a community group need to grow in your application of this principle? Brainstorm several ideas as a group. Think broader than Wednesday nights.

The following questions are an example of how we will meditate on and discuss Sunday's sermon theme each week. Use these this week as a way to put the Dining Room into practice. Typically, all the questions discussed in community group will come from Sunday's theme.

- Jesus commends the Ephesian church for ______ (Revelation 2:2). They were zealous for doctrinal purity and ministry, but so were the Pharisees. How is it possible for a church to preserve doctrinal purity but lose its first love for God? What has gone wrong when zealous preservation of doctrinal purity crowds out love?
- Read 1 Tim. 4:16. Paul told Timothy to watch his _____ and _____ implying a close relationship between the two. What are some ways that we should obey Paul's admonition?
- 🗱 What are 3 things in your own life that are distracting you from the primacy of your first love for God? What could be threatening our first love as a church?
- A What are some ways that you need to return to the works of your first love? Use the following quote to help: "The cross is the blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled, but we have to get near enough to it for its sparks to fall on us." (John Stott)

3	 Living Room - CARING The gospel causes us both to care for the needs of those around us and to open up about the needs of our own lives. In our living rooms, we share our lives with others, spending time with one another, laughing at stories, working through difficulties and rejoicing in triumphs. In biblical community we share our lives by practicing hospitality, listening to each other, offering words of encouragement and even confronting sin when necessary. (1 Cor. 12:25-27) How are believers to care for one another? Read the following list of one another commands from the NT. Circle the ones you struggle most with. Star the ones you sense God has gifted you specifically in. We are commanded to "love, be at peace with, show hospitality to, honor, do not judge, bear the burdens of, forgive, be kind, submit, do not lie to, do not speak evil to, pray for, be likeminded with, do not hold a grudge, highly esteem, do not be partial to, encourage, teach, and do good to one another." Share your responses with the group. For extra study, trace prohibitions and commands, tangible and intangible, active and passive. 	
	🗱 What are 2-3 ways that active involvement in this group help you better apply these verses?	
4	ement - DISCIPLING In our basements, we learn and practice our skills. We hone those skills from each other by participating together task. In Christian community, trained leaders welcome others into their skills. Servants are discipled by one life touching another in mutual icipation of ministry. As God-given gifts are identified, they are employed for service for the benefit and blessing of the whole Body. (Matt. 9-20, 1 Pet. 4:10)	
	🗱 Read 1 Corinthians 4:14-17. How does Paul describe discipleship?	
	According to 1 Timothy 4:12-16 what is to be the content of discipleship or to put it another way what s someone you are discipling?	hould you be striving to pass on to
5	Front Porch - PROCLAIMING Community reaches out. From our front porches, we welcome others into our home. In biblical community, we proclaim the gospel through our words and actions both to those outside community and those already inside it. We invite others to join us in community and display living, Christlike love one for another in front of those we welcome in. (John 13:35, Matthew 5:14-16, 1 John 4:12)	PRAYER REQUESTS
	What is the reason according to 1 John 4:12 that believers are to love one another? Why is it important that non-Christians observe Christian community?	
	** "Let an [unbeliever'] experience the life of Christian community. The church is the home in which God dwells by his SpiritLet our relationships provoke questions. And don't worry if your church life is sometimes less perfect than it should be! We do not witness to good works, but to the grace of God. Our commitment to one another despite our differences and our grace towards one another's failures are more eloquent testimony to the grace of God than any pretense at perfection." - Tim Chester & Steve Timmis	
	🗱 How should God's design for Christian community impact the way you think about your community group and evangelism?	