

# FOUNDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## VARIOUS TEXTS

- 1 **How have you been blessed by community group or a similar ministry in the past?** In what ways have community groups been a help to you in your Christian life? What are you most looking forward to about being back together in community groups?
- 2 **Let's take a moment to study our foundations for community.** One of our core values at Gospel Grace Church is Christian Community. Take some time to discuss the core value itself, then answer the questions below it.

 **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY:** Christians are born into a new community through the reconciling work of Christ. This new identity compels us to live in a communion of brotherly love. This is because when we are secure in God's love, we are free and responsible to radically love one another in transparency, accountability, and mutual edification.

 Is it important for believers to strive for this kind of communion with one another? Why or why not? Read Gen. 1:26, 2:18, John 17:20-23 and 1 Peter 2:9-10 for help.

 Christian community is both a restorative work of God in the gospel and a response of believers to that work. What does that mean? Look at Heb. 10:19-25. How is God's restorative work in the gospel described? What should believers respond toward that work?

### To foster the kind of community life that the New Testament sets out for us, we fellowship around the Word.

Fellowship involves much more than a passing conversation in a church lobby; it is the common life that we share with other believers, because of the life we have in Christ. So, in large groups, small groups and one-to-one, we instruct with the Word, care with the Word, disciple in the Word and proclaim the Word.

**In order to keep these priorities in front of us, we have designed a simple house diagram.** In essence, a healthy community group should be spending time in all of these "rooms" on a regular basis.



- 3 **The DINING ROOM reminds us that we INSTRUCT with the Word.** The word is our life, and we must speak it and share it one with another. In a 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. Our life together in community should be like a potluck dinner where everyone brings a dish to share. We don't gather to spectate, we are all active participants.

 Read Eph. 4:15-16. How does the church grow? How should you be contributing to that growth?

 Use the imagery in Eph. 4:15-16 to describe your role in the growth of others in community.

 How can you practically grow in instructing the Word with your CG this year? Brainstorm several ideas together. Think broader than Wednesday nights.



# FAITH THAT ESCAPES & ENDURES SUFFERING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HEBREWS 11:32-40

## HEBREWS 11:32-40 - Sermon Outline and Notes for Meditation

 FAITH THAT \_\_\_\_\_ SUFFERING.

 FAITH THAT \_\_\_\_\_ SUFFERING.

 FAITH THAT'S \_\_\_\_\_ ON JESUS .

**1** Hebrews 11 is a catalog of grand examples of faith. Do you know the story of any of the people mentioned in this chapter?

 a. If so, with whom do you feel you have the most in common and why?

**2** How would you define faith? What are some of the descriptors of your faith?

 a. How has your life changed as a result of your faith in God? What has your faith cost you along the way?

**3** Do you actively remind yourself of the promises God has made to you as a member of the new covenant?

 a. How does recalling the promises of God affect the way you live? How do they help you fight sin and strive for holiness?

 b. List a few of your favorite promises of God – one's you cling to regularly.

**4** What are some of the particular challenges to one's faith associated with achieving greatness (Heb 11:32-35) as well as suffering grievously (Heb 11:35-38)? Both sides of the coin have innate difficulties.

