

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 some time to discuss our foundations for community.** One of our core values at Gospel Grace Church is 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.

"If we come to church just to be with one another, one another is all we'll get. And it isn't enough. Inevitably, our hearts will grow empty, and then angry. If we put community first, we will destroy community. But if we come to Christ first and submit ourselves to him and draw life from him, community gets traction." Ray Ortlund

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 the life of community--our food, so we regularly speak it and share it one with another.

❑ Read Eph. 4:15-16. How does the church grow? How should you be contributing to that growth? Use the imagery in the passage to describe your role in the growth of others in community.

♥ How can you practically grow in instructing the Word? Brainstorm several ideas that you can do together as a group. Think broader than Wednesday nights.

4 The LIVING ROOM reminds us that we CARE with the Word. 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.

 How does Gal. 6:1-2 describe the kind of care that believers should have for each other? Which do you find easiest? Which do you find most difficult?

 What are 2-3 things that would grow out of a fresh commitment to this kind of care?

5 The FRONT PORCH reminds us that we PROCLAIM the Word. The front porch is a place where people are both welcomed into a home and where people can be sent out into the world. In biblical community, we proclaim the gospel through our words and actions both to those we have invited in and to those outside of it.

 Read John 13:35 and 1 John 4:12. What happens when believers genuinely love one another? Why is it important that non-Christians observe Christian community?

 Believers both proclaim the gospel as individuals and model the gospel in community. Where do you see both concepts in Matt 5:14-16, 1 Peter 3:15, 2:9-10 and 1 Thess. 1:8?

6 The BASEMENT reminds us that we DISCIPLE with the Word. Just like a loving father who invites his son into a basement workshop, so believers are called to train others in what to believe and how to live and serve. In Christian community, believers leverage what they have and who they are to help others become more like Jesus.

PRAYER REQUESTS

 What metaphor does Paul use to describe discipleship in 1 Corinthians 4:14-17? This is not a task reserved for experts. Take some time to think of practical ways that each person in the group can disciple another person this year.

 One of the ways we'd like to grow in discipleship this year is by raising up additional leaders within each group. Work through the following list of roles with your CG leader and pray about whether God would have you serve your group this year:

Coleader/Apprentice (helps lead discussions, in training to multiply)

Care Leader (mobilizes the group to meet needs, communicates prayer requests and pressing needs to the leader and/or group itself)

Connections Leader (mobilizes invites to Sunday guests to be a part of the CG, follows up with geographic/relational contact and care cards, intros guests to CG leaders/hosts)

Logistics Leader (Fills out attendance, Brings handouts, come early to help with setup)

Hospitality Leader (Coordinates snacks/meals, baby/wedding showers, meal trains)

Front Porch Leader (Mobilizes group for engagement in relational or geographic evangelistic opportunities. Facilitates proclaiming the gospel in word and deed.)
