



# 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.



 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.

 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?

