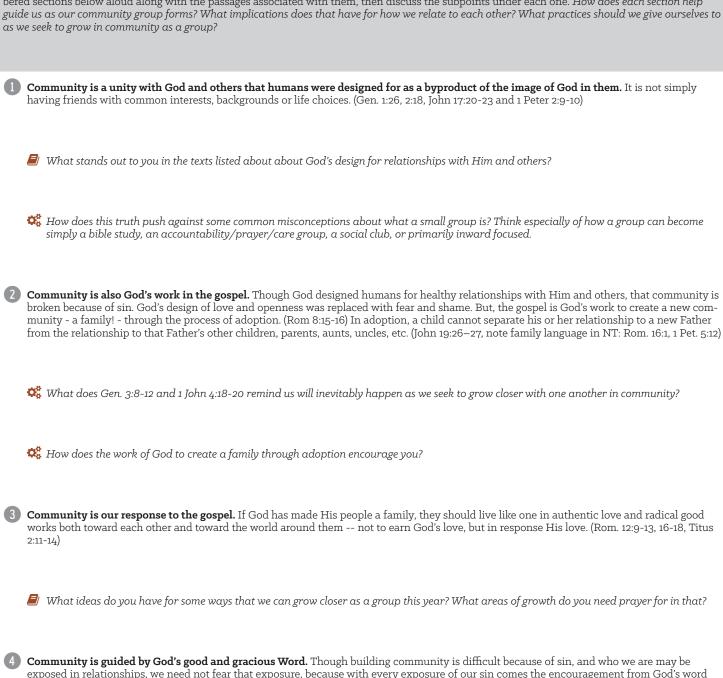
FOUNDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

VARIOUS TEXTS

OPENING UP: 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?

As groups get started this year, let's take some time to discuss our foundations for community life at Gospel Grace. Read the four main numbered sections below aloud along with the passages associated with them, then discuss the subpoints under each one. How does each section help guide us as our community group forms? What implications does that have for how we relate to each other? What practices should we give ourselves to

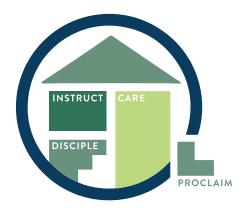


🗐 Read Eph. 4:15-16. How does the church grow? How should you be contributing to that growth? Use the imagery in the passage to describe your role in the growth of others in community.

that the persistent work of the Spirit will grow us to be more like Jesus. Sinners who are who both exposed in their need and encouraged in the gospel receive and reflect the love of God to His glory. (Phil. 1:6, John 13:35, Romans 15:5-7) So, in community we fellowship around the word.

Out of those four guiding principles, we seek to grow in community at Gospel Grace. In order to keep those 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. 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. 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. Believers both proclaim the gospel as individuals and model the gospel in community. The BASEMENT reminds us that we DISCIPLE with the Word. Just like a loving father who invites his son into a basement workshop to learn a skill or trade, 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.



If you'd like to study more about how each room contributes to community life, see the following passages:
Dining room: Instruct - Col. 3:16, Matt. 4:4, Eph. 4:15-16
Living Room: Care - 1 Corinthians 12:25-27, Gal. 6:1-2

Front Porch: Proclaim - John 13:35, 1 John 4:12. Matt 5:14-16, 1 Peter 3:15, 2:9-10 and 1 Thess. 1:8

Basement: Disciple - Phil. 3:17, Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Corinthians 4:14-17

- Each week, our community group discussions will center around the theme and passage from the previous Sunday. This week, Pastor Lukus preached from 1 Corinthians 11 on how meaningful and powerful the Lord's Supper is especially because it displays love and unity. How should our growth in community overflow in communion celebration?
 - What are some practical ways that we can convey the ideas of love for and unity with other believers in how we celebrate the Lord's Supper? How does Paul's teaching on the Lord's supper increase our sensitivity to the poor and needy in our church?
 - If a non-Christian attended a communion service, would they get a sense of love and unity? If so, how? If not, why?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- How has the practice of the Lord's Supper impacted your relationship with other members of your church? How has it impacted your worship of Christ?
- As you celebrate communion, do you most often find yourself looking up to God in gratitude, back to the cross in remembrance, forward to the future in hope of Jesus' return, within your heart at your own sin, or around the room at the rest of the church? Do you ever miss any of these? What's at stake if we forget one or more of these perspectives? How could it change the tone of the Lord's Supper?
 - What should your attitude be toward the Lord's Supper and why? In what ways can you grow in the significance and seriousness of taking communion? What has this passage or your subsequent meditations on the ordinance challenged you with?

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