

COMMUNITY GROUP CORE VALUES/ BEST PRACTICES

COMMUNITY

Pursue Relationally: Pursue deep relationships with one another, based on love and acceptance.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love, give preference to one another in honor. – Romans 12:10

Best Practices

- Make efforts to spend time with a different member every week outside of group time.
- Plan a group retreat.
- Commit to call or email the group members throughout the week. Assign each member a different day to call or email.
- Nominate a social chair who schedules a social get-together on a regular basis.
- Meet beforehand and sit together at Sunday service.
- Be sporadic with spontaneous get-togethers along with consistent scheduled meetings.
- Be a good listener, really hearing what people have to say.

Live authentically, sharing our struggles.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. – James 5:16

Best Practices

- Ask each group member what they perceive as the roadblocks that might keep them from being completely transparent.
- Share Life Stories to gain an appreciation for each other's unique backgrounds and wiring.
- Partner up members for accountability throughout the week, and use the "Accountability Questions" resource.
- Share struggles and celebrate victories as they come. Don't wait for the next meeting.
- Pray for healing and victory in the moment sins are confessed. These prayers are powerful!
- Be open and caring by setting the example of being honest, empathetic, and actively seeking ways to assist group members.

Resources

- Accountability Questions document

GROW

Devote Daily: Devote ourselves daily to a personal relationship with Jesus.

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. – John 15:5

Best practices

- Choose a time, place, and plan for spending time with the Lord.
- Keep a journal to reflect on what you read and what the Lord is teaching you. Intentionally share what you are learning, and ask others in the group what they are learning from God's Word.
- Use a prayer calendar as a reminder to pray for your group, the church, non-believers, etc.
- Memorize and meditate on Scripture. Use community to help keep you accountable.

Resources

- Scripture Typer or Fighter Verses App
- YouVersion Bible App
- *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers

Admonish Faithfully: Encourage and admonish one another faithfully toward maturity.

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. – 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Best Practices:

- Encourage
 - Identify plans and goals and then become actively involved in helping members reach them.
 - Celebrate big and small victories frequently in all areas of life.
 - Follow up on prayer requests throughout the week (phone calls, text messages, emails, etc.).
 - Handwrite a note to encourage someone with the growth you have seen in his/her life.
- Delivering Admonishment
 - Seek to understand; affirm your love and care for them.
 - Make sure your admonition is based on Scripture, not personal preferences or opinion.
 - Check your heart to make sure your motives are pure.
 - Be willing to journey through the process with them; be patient as they struggle.
- Receiving Admonishment
 - Understand that admonishment, although usually uncomfortable, is necessary for growth.
 - Extend grace if they do not deliver it perfectly.
 - Listen attentively and thank them for caring enough to approach you.
 - If the admonishment is correct, confess the sin to God and to those affected.

CARE

Counsel Biblically: Offer and receive biblical counsel in all areas of life.

And concerning you, my brethren, I myself am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another. – Romans 15:14

Best Practices:

- Set the expectation that Scripture will be the guide for the group.
- As things are shared, consistently ask the question, “What does the Bible say about this?”
- Wait to give advice until after searching the Scriptures.
- Memorize some Scripture passages that deal with common situations in community (see most common used Community verses).
- A good leader WALKS alongside their members:
 - Walk with God.
 - Ask questions to seek to understand.
 - Listen carefully and look to Scripture.
 - Kindly communicate what you found.
 - Support them going forward.
- Resources:
 - Gotquestions.org
 - *Counseling Through Your Bible Handbook*, June Hunt

MISSION

Engage Missionally: Engage intentionally with our communities and the world to make disciples.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. – Matthew 28:19-20

Best Practices:

- Share as a group the roadblocks that keep you from sharing the good news with others.
- Have all members share how confident they are in explaining the gospel; then equip one another with how to share the Gospel.
- Have each member identify their TOP TWO. Challenge each other in a certain time frame to share with one person from that list.
- Pray God would provide opportunities and that each member would be bold to faithfully share in those times.
- Partner with each other in evangelism.
- Share stories about where God provided opportunities to share the Gospel.
- Find a place to serve in the community with one of Crossings external focus partners.

Resources:

- *One Thing You Can't Do In Heaven*, Mark Cahill