

10 IDEAS TO STRENGTHEN YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP

THE VISION

If the goal of Community Groups is to connect people in authentic relationships that lead to spiritual transformation (by living out our Four Community Core Values), then it will require focused intentionality to live out these values in our groups.

Just like a master craftsman who creates with great precision and attention, building deep and authentic community takes time, patience, and intentionality. And with God's help, just like the craftsman, Community Groups can become a beautiful display of workmanship that displays glory to the Maker (Ephesians 2:10)!

HERE ARE OUR TOP 10 IDEAS TO HELP STRENGTHEN YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP:

- 1 Road Trips & Retreats**

Nothing bonds groups like creating unique shared experiences and making memories. Being purposeful to retreat together is an excellent way to help accomplish those things. When you escape the city, life tends to slow down from all of the daily distractions at home. Those slow morning cups of coffee at the lake house and fun daytime activities with community members tend to grow people together in deeper ways that is hard to explain. So if it's a vacation together (camping, skiing, etc.), or a few hour road trip, retreats almost always draw groups closer to one another (1 Thessalonians 2:8).
- 2 Serve Together**

While some group members may each be serving in their own roles (e.g. Children's, Student Ministry, Community Center, etc.), finding monthly or quarterly ways to serve together as a group can be a great way to strengthen your group! Finding a common cause to make an impact together has proven to be a great community builder (Mark 10:45).
- 3 Group Participation in a Crossings Ministry**

We've heard of groups having excellent experiences together as they've journeyed through Crossings ministries, like concerts, JumpStart conference, Date Nite, Wednesday night class, etc. Experiencing a shared ministry gives everyone a common language, the same tools to work with, and a great learning experience together.
- 4 In-town Fun Nights & Game Nights**

In-town retreats can also be a great hit! If it's an OKC activity like Top Golf, Bleu Garten, Main Event, bowling, a backyard BBQ, potluck, or game night ... these fun nights out are always great relational investments!
- 5 Regular Communication**

The healthiest groups are the ones that interact regularly with one another outside their weekly meeting time. From mid-week meals and socializing, to regular phone calls and text messages (or the GroupMe app), healthy groups pursue one another relationally and are able to fully give an account for one another in "real time" (Romans 12:10).

- 6 Pray Together**
A real shocker, right? Sadly, a lot of groups fail to do this. A best practice is to identify a prayer partner each week from your group where you can share personal life updates, find accountability, and pray together for one another's needs. Additionally, as a group that's committed to the uncommitted, another best practice is to regularly share updates and pray for one another's "TOP TWO," that is, the two names of our friends and family members who we're praying would one day know Christ personally (Matthew 28:19-20, James 5:16).
- 7 Do a Study Together**
Unsure of where to find great group studies? We can help. Check out our Community Group Resources library, Right Now Media, and/or ask the Community Group team.
- 8 Be Spontaneous**
In addition to the planned communication throughout the week, never forget the power of the impromptu and spontaneous invite—from the group text message of "I'm free for dinner tonight— who's in!?" to the "Home project planned for Saturday ... anyone handy with tools want to help!?" Some of the best groups we hear about frequently spend time with one another in the "small and nominal stuff" moments ... and those times are priceless because that's when life happens.
- 9 Memorize Scripture Together**
"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11). An excellent way for groups to challenge one another in knowing God's Word in a deeper way is to memorize it together. Make it fun ... for instance, pick a verse or two each week for the group to memorize, then on group night, draw one name from a hat and have them recite it. Watch the verses add up over time! Helpful hint: Scripture Typer is an excellent app for this.
- 10 Plan whole family events**
What could be better than modeling biblical community for your children? Getting the entire family together builds a legacy within your family. Find a time during the week to have a meet up at the park, go to a movie together, grab dinner together, or plan a weekly play-date during the summer when the days are hot and long! Anyway you slice it, the healthiest groups spend time together outside of group time, and inviting the whole family just reinforces the value of biblical community.

We hope this helps. The list above is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather a sampling of ideas to help your Community Group grow stronger together.