

# LEAVING A COMMUNITY GROUP

## THE VISION

While there are acceptable reasons to leave a Community Group (getting married and moving to another city/state are two great examples), there are also bad reasons to leave a Community Group. We should always try to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3), and we should never leave a Community Group because of (unresolved) conflict. Here are some guidelines to help you process through leaving a Community Group well.

## SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- Colossians 3:12-15
- Ephesians 4:1-6
- Philippians 2:3-4

## WHEN A COMMUNITY GROUP MEMBER WANTS TO LEAVE THE GROUP:

- Ideally the member would include the leader/co-leader and group in the decision making process. (This needs to be communicated with the group.)
  - Share in person (not via email or text) about the desire to leave.
  - Allow the group to process with them and ask questions.
- Ask the hard questions:
  - Are there unmet or unspoken expectations?
  - Is there unresolved conflict with someone in the group?
  - Is it getting too hard?
  - Are feelings of fear coming up or feeling exposed?
  - Has another Community Group asked the person to join them?
  - Are any of these possible reasons for leaving:
    - Marriage
    - Changing churches
    - Moving
- If there is unresolved conflict, encourage the member to go back to the person or group and have the appropriate conversations.

### Things to Remember:

- Each situation is different, thus there is no formula for how it “should be” done.
- Consult your Community Group Pastor for input/feedback on what would be the best next steps.