



A COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE



LIVING INTENTIONALLY TO HELP OUR
WORLD SEE **JESUS**.

A COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE Growth Group Discussion Guide

DATE	TOPIC	SCRIPTURE
June 3-8	Connecting with Our Community	2 Corinthians 5:17-21
June 10-15	Being Hospitable to our Community	Luke 14:12-15
June 17-22	Sharing with our Community	Matthew 6:19-21
June 24-29	Loving our Community	Romans 12:9-21
July 1-6	Communicating with our Community	1 Peter 3:13-17
July 8-14	Praying for our Community	1 Timothy 2:1-8
July 15-20	Supporting our Community	2 Corinthians 1:3-11
July 20-27	Standing with our Community	Matthew 25:31-46
July 29-Aug 3	Blessing our Community	Colossians 3:12-17

Series Introduction:

As a church community we can be tempted to only function as a church family: effectively in touch with each other but somewhat out of touch with the world all around us. We can easily become only insider focused and lose the focus on the outside.

Believers are to be a community of God that's on the move. We are to be intentional in how we live our lives so as to be a witnessing community to the world around us. God called us as a community to spread the good news of Jesus. Jesus left a movement to be caught by men and women who are willing to put everything on the line in order to proclaim him as Lord.

God is not looking for believers who live lives of fortification where they build a fortress to protect themselves and have the attitude, which just pays attention to only what is within the

fortress. Also God is not looking for believers who can be domineering by fighting every battle and trying to win people to God with their worldly arguments and the worldly zeal. These types of believers are faultfinders, always complaining of what's wrong. But God wants believers to be a community of Jesus, which is full of love in both deed and word, and invites those on the outside with respect and gentleness. This is what it looks like to live incarnationally.

These studies align with the same topics that will be preached in Sunday Worship Gatherings. The Prayer Café (meeting Tuesdays at 5:30) will also pray around the same topics. We encourage your group members to participate in all these opportunities!

Leaders Notes:

1. This guide does not include any icebreaker or get-to-know you tools. You can contact the office for resources on this.
2. These bible studies are written to align with the same topic and passage that will be preached each Sunday. You can use some time at the beginning of your meetings to review the sermons.
3. As this series is action-focused, we encourage you to use one or multiple of your meeting time to serve your community as a group.
4. This is a basic guide, we encourage leaders to invest in preparation and use creative means of developing and delivering the studies for their groups.
5. Our Growth Group expectations document includes a prompt for groups to encourage each member to come up with person growth goals for the next few months, to share with the group. We suggest you use some time early in this series to do this as a group!

June 3-8

Connecting with Our Community

Being intentional in the establishment of relationships with those around us because it is better to live dependent and connected to our community than to live independently disconnected.

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Discuss:

1. What do you notice about the actions we're encouraged to take in this passage?
2. The first line of the passage begins with the explanation that "if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation" (v 17). What does it mean, for us, to be in Christ?
3. What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ?
4. It is said that 'reconciled people live reconciled lives'. How and when should someone's life change after they become a Christian? What role does Christian community have in changing someone's life?
5. Share one action you/we will take this week to intentionally connect with those around us (this can be through an act of reconciliation but doesn't have to be).

Pray.

June 10-16

Being Hospitable to our Community

Being ready and open to welcome those that are on the outside into our homes and sacred spaces following the example of Christ who invites and welcomes us into his home.

Review: Share about the action you/we took this week to connect with those around us.

Read: Luke 14:12-15

Discuss:

1. What do you notice about the actions we're encouraged to take in this passage?
2. Why would inviting those that cannot repay be counter-cultural to Jesus's host?
3. In our society whom would Jesus include in the list of people we should invite (vs 13)?
4. Where does this passage tell us that reward for our actions in community will come from?
5. Share one action you/we will take this week to intentionally show hospitality to those around us.

Pray.

June 17-22

Sharing with our Community

Being generous with our resources (time, finances and skills) to show that our sense of significance is not in WHAT we have but WHO we have.

Review: Share about the action you/we took this week to show hospitality to those around us.

Read: Matthew 6:19-21

Discuss:

1. What do you notice about the actions we're encouraged to take in this passage?
2. What earthly treasures are you tempted to store up for yourself, and what is the result?
3. What is the difference between what we store up on earth and what we store up in heaven?
4. What did Jesus mean when he said 'where your treasure is, there your heart will be also' (vs 21)?
5. Share one resource that you/we will share with those around us this week.

Pray.

June 24-29

Loving our Community

Being kind and considerate to those around us as a response to the love we have received from Jesus because, displayed love precedes life change.

Review: Share about the resource that you/we shared with those around us.

Read: Romans 12:9-21

Discuss:

1. What do you notice about the actions we're encouraged to take in this passage?
2. List the actions this passage encourages us to do and contrast with the actions it discourages.
3. Of the instructions given in this passage, which do you struggle with the most?
4. How does being 'joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer' (vs 12) impact our ability to demonstrate love to our community?
5. Share one action you/we will take this week to show love to someone around us.

Pray.

July 1-6

Communicating with our Community

Being gracious with our speech (encouraging, speaking truth/gospel in love, affirming etc.) towards those around us.

Review: Share about the action you/we will take to show love to someone around us.

Read: 1 Peter 3:13-17

Discuss:

1. What do you notice about the actions we're encouraged to take in this passage?
2. What does Peter tell his readers about being ready to talk about the hope they have in the midst of suffering?
3. Does this mean we should be able to explain deep theological issues in perfect detail at any given moment or is there one thing we should always be ready to talk about?
4. Has someone ever asked you about your faith because they watched your life in the midst of suffering?
5. Share a plan to be intentional with your speech this week to encourage, speak truth or affirm someone around us.

Pray.

July 8-14

Praying for our Community

Being generously committed to bringing the needs of those around us to God for comfort, help and thanksgiving.

Review: Share about the time this week you used your speech to encourage, speak truth or affirm someone around us.

Read: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Discuss:

1. What do you notice about the actions we're encouraged to take in this passage?
2. What type of prayers are mentioned and how do they differ?
3. For what should we pray? How should we pray? Where should we pray? What priority should prayer take?
4. How often do you pray for those around you? What makes it hard for you to consistently be praying for those around you?
5. Commit to pray for someone this week and share with the group how you are going to do it.

Pray.

July 15-20

Supporting our Community

Being present to carrying the burdens of those that are in pain around us, following the example of Christ who empathizes with those who suffer.

Review: Share about how you did with your commitment to pray for someone.

Read: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

Discuss:

1. What do you notice about the actions we're encouraged to take in this passage?
2. Why does Paul ask people to pray for him?
3. How does facing a crisis help us grow in the Lord? How has a crisis helped your spiritual life?
4. What kind of comfort do you receive from your faith in God? From your personal daily relationship with God?
5. Share how can you share the blessing of this kind of comfort with someone around us who is currently suffering.

Pray.

July 20-27

Standing with our Community

Being ready to fight injustices those around us face understanding that God's kingdom is for the oppressed, the powerless and the marginalised.

Review: Share about how you did with sharing a blessing of comfort with someone suffering.

Read: Matthew 25:31-46

Discuss:

1. What do you notice about the actions we're encouraged to take in this passage?
2. What is the difference between the sheep and the goats in this story?
3. How are Christian readers supposed to respond to this story, do we think? (e.g., should this story motivate us to be more charitable?) Why?
4. Who are the oppressed, powerless and marginalized in our community?
5. Share how can you/we can serve someone or a group of people who are oppressed or marginalized this week.

Pray.

July 29-Aug 3

Blessing our Community

Being at peace with those around us and wishing the welfare of the community around us

Review: Share about how you served someone or a group of people who are oppressed or marginalized.

Read: Colossians 3:12-17

Discuss:

1. What do you notice about the actions we're encouraged to take in this passage?
2. How should wearing "Christ's clothing" (vs 12) affect the way you live your daily life?
3. What role does a peaceful heart and thankful spirit play in blessing those around us?
4. Where does this passage suggest our ability, motivation and reward for blessing others comes from?
5. Share how can you/we can bless someone or a group of people this week.

Pray.