



## What are the four key pillars of Community Groups?

- 1) **Pray-first** - A church that doesn't pray isn't a church. Similarly, a community group that doesn't pray isn't God's group! Praying in whatever way you and your community can is a vital part of faith and following Jesus. Whenever you have a chance to pray, take it. That will help form our church culture to continue to grow to be a pray-first community (2 Chronicles 7:14). Encourage simple prayers, encourage praise. If someone has a need, pause, and pray. The way we live out prayer in community forms us as a church culture.
- 2) **Life-on-life** - Life-on-life involves moments alongside others, coffee, campfires, long drives etc. Wherever one-on-one moments happen between people, take opportunities where life and proximity allow people to be with one another. The reason this is so powerful is that in smaller moments, trust is greater, and people can let down walls, let others in closer and name realities, experiences, and hurts. Life-on-life is where being known becomes an experienced reality. Life on life is also where the best opportunities to disciple one another and encourage each other's faith can be found.
- 3) **Life in community** - Life in community is a group of 6-12 people doing, being, and connecting! This is where activities provide an opportunity to be in proximity with one another, to share, and be informed. Community life is critical to help people find roads and paths into life-on-life moments. Natural curiosity and care forms as people spend time together in study, activity, or rest. Proximity matters! When life is not all roses, and challenges inevitably come up, each person can embrace the Kingdom life here and now and live out the Good News. It is here that peace is sought, healing shared, and hard things are prayed for. Community is one of the most underrated means of discipleship. Learning to live like Jesus in community will transform a person's life in a way isolation never can.
- 4) **Life on mission** - Active service is critical to the mission of God! As a church we engage with Outreach Sunday 4-5 times a year. Each community group is encouraged to dream, pray, and engage in outreach on Outreach Sundays, but are also welcome to engage in God's mission to bring the Good News to others, as part of a regular rhythm.

When we consider outreach, the hope is to draw concentric circles. This is done by considering who is around you that you as a community can serve? Are there neighbours, coworkers' families, or your kids' friends that God is working to make Himself known to? Is He guiding you to love, serve, or care for someone to make His love for them tangible and present? A great way to discover this is through prayer. Ask God to give opportunities, or a clear direction. Then listen, watch, and engage as He leads. Life on mission helps pull a community together. Seeing God's guidance and provision inspires individuals to seek God deeper in their own life. Gathering stories of God's activity is also rooting deeply for faith, and discipleship. Mission with God in community has a profound impact on life and faith.

The heartbeat for our community groups is first to be a community that people can grow in. Each group will be shaped and molded by the people in that group and the seasons they are in. Each community group will have strengths and weaknesses and as part of a community we can inspire each other to try new things and explore new or meaningful ways of life formed by following Jesus. When people make life decisions, or plan out strategic next steps in life, it is rarely a sermon that influences someone's path. Rather, the greatest influence on a person's choices or life direction is those within arm's reach. Community groups are envisioned to be people within arm's reach of one another, encouraging, supporting, and loving one another in the ways and lifestyle of Jesus. Living life together in pursuit of God, and His Kingdom will bear fruit in your life as a community member, as well as the life of the group as they continue to draw closer to God and to one another.