

## OVERVIEW- COMMUNITY GROUP STRUCTURE AND GOALS

March 1, 2010

### General Structure

How?

1. Pastors caring for pastors
2. Pastors caring for comm. group leaders (spheres of care)
3. Comm. group leaders caring for community group and training an assistant

### Yearly Format

|          |                                                                   |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1   | Normal Group Time                                                 |
| Week 2   | Normal Group Time                                                 |
| Week 3   | Normal Group Time                                                 |
| Week 4   | Invest for Comm Group leaders; Assistants lead normal group time; |
| (Week 5) | Fellowship/Parenting Training (usually quarterly)                 |

Why? Community Group life exists for us to live out the “one anothers” and cultivate the core values of Community of Grace, Humility, and Biblical Roles

What are the Goals of every TCC member?

- Treasure Christ, Pursue Community, Love the World
- Practical involvement means
  - Corporate Worship, Community Group, Intentional Living
  - Core Values: Seminars, one study
  - Serving others- We want others to be struck by our constant question, “How can I serve you?”

What are our Goals during our group time?

1. Prayer- desperate anticipation
  - a. For church prayer requests- missions, building, evangelistic home groups, more relationships with unbelievers
  - b. For hurts in the group
  - c. To follow evangelistic opportunities
2. Encourage intentional living
  - a. Sharing about opportunities you have had to share the gospel.
  - b. Share about the on-going interaction with the lost
3. Inform the group about church life
  - a. Start and stop on time (2 hours unless the whole group agrees to more)
  - b. Read the important announcements to your group (periodically share the many ways to get information at TCC- website, bulletin, announcements on Sunday, announcement slides on Sunday, comm. groups, church email, etc.)
4. Apply God’s Word (James 1:22-24; Matthew 7:20-27- Be doers of the word)
  - a. Application of the sermon (or Book Study when we do it to emphasize a core value) We do this because we want to push for quality of grasping concepts and application more than quantity of material.
    - i. Main ideas of the sermon
    - ii. Work on clearly applying the text to the heart through...

1. "Take It Home"
  2. Eternal, internal, and external.
  3. Eternal- God; Internal- what is God teaching my heart; external- telling others- Love my family, love the church, love the lost
- b. One Another
    - i. Learn from one another
    - ii. Encourage, share Scripture with one another
  - c. Putting off and Putting on with the gospel (mostly in men's and women's time)
    - i. More suspicious of our own hearts than others- (2 Peter 1:3-9)
    - ii. How the gospel applies to our lives (3 Trees)
    - iii. RC Sproul- "It is both foolish and wicked to suppose that we will make much progress in sanctification if we isolate ourselves from the visible church. Indeed, it is commonplace to hear people declare that they don't need to unite with a church to be a Christian. They claim that their devotion is personal and private, not institutional or corporate. This is not the testimony of the great saints of history; it is the confession of fools."
    - iv. Eventually we want the groups to pursue men meeting with men outside of group for accountability once a month and/or recreation. Same for women's groups.
  - d. Community Group Scripture Memory
    - i. We have a plan that your group can use.
    - ii. Optional. Memorize in group. (Take 5 minutes to break up in small groups of 2-3's to memorize the Scripture on the spot.)
  - e. Children (Provide care for the children apart from the adults in the following ways:...)
    - i. Prayer
    - ii. Age specific application
    - iii. Age specific Scripture memory
    - iv. Other options for remaining time: video, snacks, crafts, etc.)
5. Cultivate joy
    - a. Joy in Jesus
    - b. Joy in marriages and in singleness
    - c. Joy over fun, food, games

(Other things: singing, service, scripture memory)

### Notes

- ***These things do not need to happen every single week but in a month's time they should be present.***
- ***Over the summer months- July and August your group should feel the freedom to read books rather than go over the sermon if you prefer.***

### Different format suggestions

1. Announcements, prayer, application, small groups
2. Extended Prayer around people's needs, a testimony of God's grace, application, small groups (announcements in small groups)
3. Announcements, Evangelistic encounter stories, prayer, application, small groups
4. Announcements, small groups, prayer in small groups, application

5. Prayer, Food and games
6. Small group suggestions- all in one group. Smaller groups of 3-4 people, all share and pray at the end, or a few share and pray for them as you go.

### **Helps for leaders**

**LEADERSHIP TIPS** (This was taken from a training session at Sovereign Grace Fairfax, VA)

*Five Pointers on Using the Take It Home Questions:*

1. You'll always have twice as many "Take it Home" questions as you will need for your group. Choose ones that might be most helpful for your group.
2. Don't focus on answering all the questions, use the questions to get into personal application.
3. Take some time to read the passage and remind the folks of the main points and key ideas, but keep this as brief as possible. Don't re-preach the message.
4. Come with a back-up plan. If you're not getting a lift from the "Take it Home" questions, have a question relevant to what's going on with the folks in the group.
5. Try to engage folks in responding *to each other*, so you don't become the 'answer person'.

What are other responsibilities of leaders?

1. Meeting needs- (please delegate)
  - a. Crisis care- Help when car breaks down; sickness of children; providing meals for new babies or sicknesses; wedding helps; hospital visits
  - b. Financial Care- Meeting and making the church aware of financial needs.
  - c. Promoting marital health; Providing parenting helps and dating counsel.
2. Assessing giftings and letting the pastors know
  - a. Especially for those in Emerge (our leadership training)
  - b. Especially for those who would make comm. group deacons or other types of deacons in the future
3. Train Assistants (we value multiplication)
  - a. Assistant group leaders are those who assist the group leader and his wife in whatever way the community group leader seems wise. They are not ready to lead groups but are placed in this position because we want to raise up future leaders and they have been selected because of recognized giftings, the seeds of deacon type character and an observable love for the group.
  - b. This man and his wife will fill in when the Comm. Group Leader (Deacon) is gone for Invest once a month and will seek to serve the group leader and his wife as best they can.
  - c. The group leader should be seeking to train this individual through example, life-on-life, etc. assessing their giftedness to lead and if God wills making them ready to lead a group in the future.
  - d. If the group leader must step down for whatever reason, the assistant is not automatically the new group leader but will seek to serve the group and/or the next group leader if that is not them.
4. Communities on mission
  - a. We are not missional communities but "communities on mission." Missional communities emphasize mission over community believing community is best fostered while on mission. This practically means the primary goal of the group is to reach for Jesus the neighborhood *where that group is located*. However, "communities on mission" emphasize community over mission. This practically means the primary goal is nurturing intimate family-like relationships whose mission is not to reach the neighbors around where the group meets but *to reach*

*the neighbors around where the individuals live.* The group does this by praying while in the group-time and throughout the week for gospel opportunities and praying for lost people that the individuals in the group are interacting with. The group also keeps each other accountable to live on mission in the everyday. We call this intentional living. Community group time should be a means of nurturing and cultivating disciples who make disciples through their own intentional lives.

- b. Therefore our focus is on being communities on mission. We are striving to develop biblical community, which begins with all that we have listed above under the “goals of the group meeting,” but must also include mission. Because Christ’s commission to His church is disciples making disciples, community groups are a process of making disciples who make disciples through our mission of intentional love.
  - c. Cultivating true disciples who share their faith with others in order to make disciples, our groups should keep each other accountable on the belief that all of life is on the mission of making disciples. Our groups will also seek to see how they can serve periodically those around the area where the church meets corporately. Once we grow we can work with other groups to reach our portion of the city. But for now our service will be primarily focused, as a group, towards loving the area around where the church gathers corporately, leaving intentional living in your communities up to the individuals in those communities.
5. Supporting church planters and international workers where it applies
- a. Cultivating awareness of those in your group who are being trained for eldership, church planting, or international ministry.
  - b. If any leave from your group to plant churches nationally or internationally you will support them in prayer, regular contact, and periodic visits with the church.

#### Who can come?

- Members
- Believing non-members
- Seekers that are not disruptive

(Seekers/Doubters have the opportunity to go also to periodic Questions Concerning Christianity Groups in homes, Increase 1 classes in our Sunday AM Session, seminars, and family rooms, and some in informal book reading groups, one on one/two mentoring)

#### Monthly checklist

- Did we pray as a group for intentional living, conversions, nations, and/or hurts within the group?
- Did I read the most pressing announcements regarding church life from the 411 email to the group?
- Did the multiple people in your group share stories of God at work; of intentional living; life change; etc.
- Did you apply God’s word from the sermon using the “Take It Home” questions or your own questions centered around the text and topics of the sermon?
- Did you apply the gospel to problems, victories, and concerns you encountered in your group?
- Did you practice helping one another put on and put off usually in a small group context?

- Did you focus in Scripture memory as a group?
- Were the children engaged around God's word, and with scripture memory?
- Did you lead with joy and seek to cultivate joy in your group?
- Is your group living out many of the one anothers with each other in group and throughout the week?
  - Are you meeting physical needs?
  - Do you know the primary struggles (marital, financial, parenting, etc.) of the people in your group?
- Are you training your assistant?

**For all of these see the notes above for clarification of what this means and what it does not.**