

“Community”

Acts 2:42-47 / 11.4.12

Community Group Growth Questions

1. Share with the group any insight, truth, or observation from Sunday's message that helped you, troubled you, or ministered to you.
2. Discuss how community has played a part in your personal spiritual growth. What are some of the obstacles to spiritual growth when we are isolated from the rest of the body of Christ?
3. How is “giving” a part of your community? In what ways do you give to one another? How are you giving beyond your community group to the community and the lost around you?
4. How has your community group helped you to discover or to grow in your spiritual gifts? In what ways are you sharing your gifts within your community group? How are you using your gifts to serve one another?
5. Have you hit upon some ways that your group needs to grow or change? Take some time to discuss what you can practically do to deepen the intimacy level of your community, to grow, to share, and to serve one another and those far from God.

Living on Mission

1. Are you connected in a community group? Are you committed to your community group? Does your attendance and actions match the level of the commitment you believe you have? Does anything need to change?
2. Do the people in your community group know the “real” you? How willing have you been to get to know the others in your group? What changes might it take for you to know and be known at a deeper level?
3. How open are you with your needs in your group? Do you have needs that your group doesn't know about that pride has kept you from sharing? How willing are you to meet the needs of others in your group who have shared their needs?
4. Do you know what gifts God has given you? In what ways are you personally using your gifts to serve others in your group? If you don't know what your gifts are, would you be willing to risk serving your group in a number of different ways in order to discover what they might be?

This Week's Reading:

Monday: 1 John 3-7
Tuesday: Hebrews 10:23-25
Wednesday: Ephesians 4:11-16
Thursday: 1 Peter 2:1-3
Friday: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9
Saturday: 1 Peter 4:8-11

Ripple Report:

We've got a lot to be thankful for here at the Church at Martinsburg. It's been humbling to see how God's been moving in people's hearts lately. By God's grace, people have been stepping out in obedience, repenting of sin and forging deep, meaningful relationships with others in their community groups. In response to last week's 3 spontaneous baptisms Lindsey Atchley (@LindsAtchley) tweeted: "**Three spontaneous baptisms today just reminds us of why we moved here to plant God's church!**" Let's not forget times like this, as we're prone to do. Let's mark last week as a picture of God's faithfulness to His children, and let's pray for weeks like last week to be a regular occurrence!

Welcome to the Church at Martinsburg!

Whether this is your first time or your next time, whether you are a member or a first-time guest – we want to connect with you! Use the white card with this Loop to relay information to your church staff. Please complete the front so we can update our records and use the back to request information or share your prayer requests. As your pastors, we are honored to pray for and serve you.

Pastor On Call: If you or your family have an emergency and need to get a hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach The Church at Martinsburg's Pastor on call.

Media Team: Looking for a place to serve? What about media? Contact Tim Wilkerson for more information at tim@martinsburgchurch.org

Ripple Reports: How is God at work in your community group, our church, and your life in general? Let us know with this hashtag: #ripplereport

OP:THX - Pledged = 129 turkeys, Need **at least** 127 more! - Join us on November 17th from 7:45 to 8:15am at the Regal Cinema's parking lot.

Women's Gathering: November 9-10. Theme: Woman-to-Woman Gospel-Centered Relationships. Location: Harvest Community Church (74 Dupont Road, Martinsburg WV 25404). Sign up in the lobby or on C@M Connect.

Missionary Toolbox: Fellowship

“But God has put this Word into the mouth of men in order that it may be communicated to other men. When one person is struck by the Word, he speaks it to others. God has willed that we should seek and find His living Word in the witness of a brother, in the mouth of man. Therefore, the Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and discouraged, for by himself he cannot help himself without belying the truth. He needs his brother man as a bearer and proclaimer of the divine word of salvation. He needs his brother solely because of Jesus Christ. The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother's is sure.

And that also clarifies the goal of all Christian community: they meet one another as bringers of the message of salvation. As such, God permits them to meet together and gives them community. Their fellowship is founded solely upon Jesus Christ and this ‘alien righteousness.’ All we can say, therefore, is: the community of Christians springs solely from the Biblical and Reformation message of the justification of man through grace alone; this alone is the basis of the longing of Christians for one another.”

--Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together – The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*

The Gospel Creates Family Where There Is No Family

Suggested Resources:

Life Together – The Classic Exploration of Christian Community by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Community: Taking Your Small Group Off Life Support by Brad House
True Community: The Biblical Practice of Community by Jerry Bridges
Everyday Church by Tim Chester and Steve Timmis
A Meal with Jesus by Tim Chester



How is God working? Let us know by tagging your tweets with #ripplereport or sending them to ripple@martinsburgchurch.org!