

COMMUNITY CARE GROUP GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

WELCOME!

Welcome to a new season of ministry at Community CRC! Actually, we are continuing our ministry, but September always seems like we are beginning something new, so here we go... Over the last few months the elders and deacons have reaffirmed the Community model for ministry at CCRC and so this fall each of the Communities will have an opportunity to explore what that might mean for them and to explore what it means to be Community. Prior to the end of the year there are 6 designated Sundays for Communities and Community Care Groups to meet – today, October 1, 15, 29, and November 12 and 26. The sermons during this time will cover the 10 Commandments, with a break at the end of October to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Many of you will be meeting this afternoon or this evening for some sort of event whether that be with the larger Community or in your Community Care Group. Others will once again pick up a gathering rhythm of some sort in the weeks to come. It is entirely up to each Community what will happen, but it is hoped that opportunities given will be used and that energies will go to fulfill all four purposes of Communities: fellowship, pastoral care, discipleship and mission.

Materials for the Community Care Groups will be somewhat different this year in comparison to prior years. While we may be spending time on the 10 Commandments in the worship services the discussion questions will be more generic and something along the line of what the Grade 4 – 6 children are dealing with after each sermon. The whole concept is to make the discussion time more flexible and applicable to people of all ages and abilities. Yes, it will take some creativity on the part of the group leaders...

(Note: sermons can be accessed online at ccrc.on.ca/sermons, and CD's of the services can be requested from the church office. At the moment it is not possible to have sermons online on the same day they are preached.)

I. Beginning Your Time Together

1. Maybe you have been together for a long time or maybe you are just new to each other. Spend some time with some connecting exercises (good for all ages). Here are some suggestions:
 - Toss a beach ball from one person to another and get them to tell you something about them that no one knows. When the ball is in the person's hand they speak and others listen.
 - Put coins on a table and have each one pick up a coin and look at the date. Ask them to tell you where they were in that year and what was going on. Put coins back on table and repeat.
 - Perhaps someone in your group is aware of some sort of game you can play that is fun and helpful for introductions.
 - Talk about your summer. What did you do and what did you experience?

- What book did you read and would you or would you not recommend it?
 - What movie did you see and what do you remember?
2. The first commandment tells us to have no other gods before our true and triune God. Our God displays time and again, in scripture and in our lives, His awesome power; greater power than any other god we could follow. Please take time to go around your group and share a "WOW God" moment, whether a grand event or a quiet moment, that you experienced this past summer.
 3. Take the opportunity to spend some time in prayer thanking the Lord for the summer and for the things experienced. People of all ages can be involved in circle prayer.

II. Beginning another Season of Community Care Groups

1. Take some time to think about the CCRC Community you are in. Who is in that Community? Can you name everyone?
2. Take some time to list some of the needs in your CCRC Community, if known. If not known, what can you do to become more informed about the needs in your CCRC Community? What are some creative ways in which to minister to the needs of those in your CCRC Community?
3. Are you aware of the geographic area in which members of your CCRC Community reside? Could you describe it? Are you aware of opportunities or needs in your geographic community as part of the Region of Waterloo or outside the region? What are some things you can do to become aware of the opportunities or needs in your geographic area?
4. Are there any global mission opportunities that your group may want to connect to? Think of the missionaries we support in various parts of the world. Are there ways in which your Community or CCG can connect with one of our missionaries?
5. Community 1 got together a group of people to for a service project to Manitoulin Island and Daystar Ministries. Is your Community up for the challenge of putting together a team to do something like what Community 1 is doing?
6. Ask different people in the room to share some of their thoughts and expectations for the Community Care Group this season.
7. Discuss how you could be creative this season and what things you could do as a Community Care Group. Brainstorm ideas.
8. What can you do differently than you did last year (if you were together that is)?
9. If you have children in your group or other youth, talk about the ways in which they can also participate in the CCG meetings. What may you have to give up or add?
10. In other words, as you begin your time together, talk about the season. Set times for the gatherings. Decide on who will lead, on where you will meet, on who will bring food, etc. Then commit to it. **It is important to respect people's time commitments.**

III. Prayer: As you begin a new season take the opportunity to spend some time in prayer about the plans you have made for your Community Care Group and about your CCRC Community as well as the geographic area in which you find yourselves. Pray that the Lord would open doors of service not only in the CCRC Community, but also in the broader community around you. People of all ages

can be involved in circle prayer after you perhaps spend some time talking about the kinds of matters that can be prayed for. This can be done early in your gathering or at the end of your time together. You will need to plan some time if members of the group are going to be involved in prayer. Waiting until the very end often cuts prayer time short because it encroaches upon eating time or departure time.

IV. Reflections on the 10 Commandments

1. Try it! Go around the circle and see if you can recite the 10 Commandments in order. Start with one person saying the first and then have the next person recite the second and so forth and see how far you get before getting stuck. Include everyone!
2. This morning we learned a hand sign for the first Commandment. Does anyone remember it? Practice it a few times. Each time you get together during this series practice the signs so that by the end you will know all 10 hand signs.
3. What is the purpose of the 10 Commandments? How do you understand them?
4. Read the commandments from Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. (Suggestion: do a dramatic reading of the law. Stand up, take your Bibles and have an equal number of people facing each other. Begin by having someone read Commandment 1 from Exodus and then have the opposite person read Commandment 1 from Deuteronomy. Keep going back and forth like that until you have echoed and read all the commandments. Did you notice a difference in what was read? What is the difference? Why are they different?
5. The first Commandment is all about loving God above all else. Are there really no other gods? Christianity claims to have the only true God. How do you explain that? How do you deal with that in the light of all the other religions and gods on earth?

V. Prayer

For your closing prayer time, it's always a good idea to go around the circle and let everyone who is willing share what is on their hearts. Be sure to include children as well. Let everyone who wants to pray have a chance to pray. If you want, you may close your time together by singing a song or reciting the Lord's Prayer together.