

COMMUNITY CARE GROUP GUIDE

OCTOBER 1, 2017

Welcome to the second Sunday set aside for Communities and Community Care Groups. Before Advent there are 5 more designated Sundays for Communities and Community Care Groups to meet - today, October 15, 29, and November 12 and 26. The sermons during this time are covering the 10 Commandments, with a break at the end of October to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

The Communities and the Community Care Groups are all at different stages of gathering. Some of you may be meeting today for the very first time while others may be off and running already. 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. In order to explore those purposes further each Community will be involved in an exercise that will help to reinforce the four purposes and that will also help each Community to see where they are putting their energies. After today both Community 1 and Community 14 will have completed the exercise. Questions will be forthcoming to each leadership team based on the results of the exercise. It is hoped that the results will provide fodder for further Community discussions.

There are three options for discussion presented in this material, plus some creative “connecting” questions for people to get comfortable with one another. **Option 1** includes *ongoing* questions that communities can use to determine where God is calling you as a community during this next season. **Option 2** includes questions about the CCRC go! Team’s building proposal. **Option 3** includes questions about the current sermon series.

(Note: sermons can be accessed online at ccrc.on.ca/sermons, and MP3s 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.)

Beginning Your Time Together (If this is your first time together try some of these. If you have done some of these already, you may move ahead or perhaps pick up on one of the points you have not covered. It never hurts to have opportunities for people to get to know each other better than they already do.)

1. Spend some time with some connecting exercises (good for all ages). Here are some suggestions:
 - 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 week. What did you do and what did you experience?
 - What book have you read lately and why would you or would you not recommend it?
 - What movie did you see lately and what do you remember?

- Any sci-fi lovers in the group? Ask them what is it about sci-fi that captures their attention?
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 or even week.

Prayer Whichever of the three options you choose to discuss as a community, ask God to bless your conversation and grow you as a community through it.

Option 1 - Things to consider throughout the season of Community Care Groups (Some of you may have already spent some time on this, but others of you may be meeting for the first time. Whether it is your first meeting or not, these and questions like them ought to be part of your *ongoing* discussions in your Community and in your 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? Who are you missing? What have you done to reach out to them?
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. They just completed their work this past Friday. Is your Community up for the challenge of putting together a team to do something like what Community 1 has done?
6. Some Communities have begun to host informal worship services in people's homes. What would it look like for your Community to host a worship service? Are there ways you could reach out to your community through worshipping together?
7. Ask different people in the room to share some of their thoughts and expectations for the Community Care Group this season.
8. Discuss how you could be creative this season and what things you could do as a Community Care Group. Brainstorm ideas.

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. If you have an elder or deacon who is in their final term, have a conversation about leadership. What is your community looking for in a leader? Have your elder and deacon talk about their service over their term. What are the joys and challenges of serving in this way? How have they been blessed? How have they grown in their faith? (note: the official list of which officebearers will be retiring in 2018 will be determined at the October Council meeting).
11. 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.**

Prayer: As you think about this 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. Include people of all ages. Such prayer 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.

Option 2 - CCRC go! Building Proposal

1. Look at the history and timeline of CCRC at the beginning of the proposal. What jumps out at you about the history of CCRC? What surprises you about the history of this church? What things did you learn that you didn't know before? Many people in this congregation have lived through this history—ask people in your community to share stories of these major milestones in the history of the church.
2. This building proposal was developed after careful consultation with the leaders of the various ministries and programs of CCRC. Do you know how the building is used throughout the week? Ask people in your community who are involved in weekday ministries how this building proposal meets the specific needs of their ministry.
3. This building proposal was developed with an eye toward making it more useful for the 12 communities. What ways could your community could make use of the various rooms in this building expansion?
4. Community CRC's **mission statement** is: "Growing in relationship with God, each other, and our community." How does this building proposal help us as a church in fulfilling our mission?
5. Look at the building proposal together. What excites you about this proposal? What concerns you? Pass these thoughts along to council.

Prayer: As you discuss the CCRC go! Team's building proposal, close out your time with prayer. Pray for the go! Team, the officebearers of the church, and the leaders of the various ministries of CCRC. Finally, pray that God will continue to bless his church with growth!

Option 3 - Reflections on the 10 Commandments

1. **Do you know all 10 Commandments?** 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. We have now learned **hand signals** for the first 3 Commandments. Does anyone remember them? 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. If you haven't already done so, **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?
4. Last week Pastor Carel recounted the story of **the golden calf** made even while Moses was up on the mountain receiving the 10 Commandments, among which was the 2nd Commandment which forbid exactly what they were doing. Read Exodus 32 (consider reading from a children's Bible). Why do you think Aaron agreed to make a golden calf for the people? Why did this make God so angry? How do you suppose the people reacted when they saw Moses coming down the mountain? Talk about God's reaction and the forgiveness offered. What "golden calves" do we build? What molds do we put God in? Why does God not want any images made of Him?
5. This morning Pastor John told the story of **the burning bush**, where God reveals his name (Jehova/Yahweh) to Moses. Read Exodus 3 (consider reading from a children's Bible). What does God's name (I AM WHO I AM) tell us about who he is? Why is God so protective of how his name is used? What are different ways that people use God's name in Scripture? The third commandment tells us not to use God's name in vain... how do we use God's name appropriately?

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.