

Discipleship Training Reset



Community Groups

Group Criteria

- ❖ Creation of an environment where Authentic Community can take place.
- ❖ Commitment to Practical, Sound Teaching
- ❖ Advancement in Growing Personal Relationships with Jesus Christ

Group Structure

- ❖ Groups will adhere to the curriculum selection process
- ❖ Groups will remain small
- ❖ Groups will be formed with a multiplication emphasis

Group Leadership

- ❖ Group Leaders will go through an application/interview process
- ❖ Group Leaders will participate in an Evaluation/accountability process
- ❖ Group Leaders will attend encouragement/training sessions

Discipleship Training Reset

Starting in the Fall of 2018, the discipleship training program will change its structure from semester-

based classes that meet at the church facilities to community groups which meet throughout the year in homes (there will not be a church-wide age-graded program on Sunday nights).



Community Groups

Community Groups have a life of 18-24 months and meet in homes during a time set by the group. To achieve greater intimacy and openness, once the group gets started the same group of members will meet without taking on any new members for the life of the group. At the end of the lifespan the group will form at least 2 new groups enlisting new members at that time.

Group Criteria

- ❖ **Creation of an environment where Authentic Community can take place.**

Vision: *To build a church of truth and grace unchurched people love to attend.*

We believe that authentic community is the best place to build with truth and grace and the most effective means of attracting people from outside the church.

By authentic we mean a relational, transforming community where people are experiencing oneness with God and oneness with one another.

Authentic Community has a focus on all of us living together as the church, rather than simply meeting together at the church.

John 17:11

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. NIV2011

We seek to develop authentic community within small groups.

Characteristics of an Authentic Community:

The characteristics of an authentic community are found in the oneness of relationships that reflect the oneness of the Trinity, *'so that they may be one as we are one'* (Creating Community, p. 41):

- Enjoying one another (Genesis 1:26)
- Encouraging one another (Matthew 3:17)
- Supporting one another (John 14:25)
- Loving one another (Mark 9:7)

- Deferring to one another (John 14:10)
- Glorifying one another (John 17:1)
Not putting others on a pedestal but to admire and congratulate one another.

Fulfillment of the mission and vision of Judson depends upon the development of authentic community:

John 17:21

that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. NIV2011

Colossians 3:12-14 paints a picture of authentic community:

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. NIV2011

❖ **Commitment to Practical, Sound Teaching**

Vision:*To build a church of truth and grace unchurched people love to attend.*

The teachers and/or facilitators of small groups must choose from an approved community group curriculum.

Teachers and/or facilitators make a commitment to weekly study and prepare for each group session All teaching must be within the scope of accepted doctrine of the church.

❖ **Advancement in Growing Personal Relationships with Jesus Christ**

Mission:*To make disciples of Jesus Christ who love God and love people.*

Whatever point a person is on their spiritual continuum we want them to be taking steps forward in their faith relationship with Jesus Christ during their small group experience.

Principles for growth:

Though true spiritual growth is difficult to measure, we believe that a focus on the following principles will create an environment for growth:

- Gospel Shaped Living— The church should be a distinctive community of God's people. The gospel shapes believer's lives. How we interact with our neighbors, how we spend our money, how we spend our time should be a direct reflection of the gospel's transformation in our lives.
1 Corinthians 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- Gospel Shaped Work—The gospel is at the heart of everything we do, especially work. How we perform our job and interact with others at work should be a direct reflection of the gospel's transformation in our lives.
Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not human masters.

- Gospel Shaped Outreach—We were born for the glory of God and for the purposes of God. God’s desire is that all should come to repentance. We were born to evangelize to the glory of God.
Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
- Gospel Shaped Worship— The gospel should drive us to be in constant worship of an all powerful God who extended grace to us in our rebellion.
1 Chronicles 16:23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.
- Gospel Shaped Mercy—God has always called his people to be a community of justice and compassion. God’s mercy towards us should drive us to extend mercy to others in our world.
James 2:15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, [16](#)and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good^b is that?

Group Structure

❖ Curriculum Selection Process

- Categories of topics to be covered by community groups will be defined by the church staff team.
Categories for Community Groups: Relationships, Stewardship/finances, Spiritual Disciplines,
- A curriculum list of studies already approved will be available. Curriculum styles will be, when possible, in a range from master-teacher based to facilitator driven.
- A review process of suggested curriculums will examine curriculums for effectiveness, usability, and doctrine.

❖ Community Group Make-up

- Size range of 6 to 12.
- Community groups will be Self-forming/leader created groups (organic) that often form around some connecting point.

❖ Multiplication emphasis

A community group will have a life of 18 – 24 months with a goal of creating at least 2 new groups.

Group Leadership

❖ Leader application/interview process

Community group leaders must:

- Complete a leader/teacher application.
- Interview with Small Groups Pastor or appropriate leader
- Be approved through proper church procedure

❖ **Leader Evaluation/accountability process**

Community group leader will:

- Receive regular individual contact from Groups Pastor or Discipleship Training Director or appropriate leader
- Enlist and maintain a personal accountability partner

❖ **Leaders encouragement/training sessions**

A training session or conference will be offered by or attended by the church