



COMMUNITY: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk with him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)*

We realize that you, as parents, are the primary faith influencers in a young person's life. The best disciple-making takes place when students' parents take the lead. That's why we've created this helpful guide for you to use at home with your child. It is designed to give you some basic information about what is being taught at church through *The Core: A Deep Discipleship* program, along with some helpful tools, suggestions, and questions to help you reinforce this learning at home.

Overview of the Community Root:

We weren't created to be alone. Our emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being depends on deep, loving relationships with other people. But the world builds walls between us, painfully isolating us from other human beings. That's the beauty of the church. When we start following Jesus, we form a bond with the others who call him Lord. Do you ever feel outcast, lonely, inferior, ashamed, or disconnected? God has created a family for you. They are his people, and they will help you grow in another essential connection—with God.

Main Topics Covered:

- 1) *The Community Intro Lesson:* This lesson sets the stage for the *Community Root*. It's designed to give students a framework for what community is and how God designed it to work in the church (the body of Christ). It's also designed to help students see their roles in the church community.
- 2) *The Church: What is it and why does it exist?* In this lesson, there will be a chance to learn more about the mission of the church and about a thinker who is pushing the church to be a place where Christ-followers live on a mission and sharpen each other. Bible Passage: Ephesians 4:1–16
- 3) *Community is a Need: Why do I need other Christ-followers?* Do you have a sense that you are vulnerable like a sheep, and that having a flock and a shepherd are necessary for survival? A lone sheep in the wild is extremely vulnerable. A Christ-follower without community is in a similar position. This lesson focuses on the importance of everyone of having a community. Bible Passage: Luke 5:1–11
- 4) *A Church for The Broken: Do I have to have it all together to be in a church?* Community with other Christ-followers is vital. It's a lifeline that fuels us, encourages us, and challenges us to live out the mission God gave us. Community keeps us in the fold of what God is doing. But what about people who don't have this community? Bible Passages: Matthew 16:13–19 and John 18:12–27

- 5) *Community Makes Disciples: What does it mean to follow Jesus?* This lesson focuses on the importance of discipleship, includes some biblical instruction on discipleship, and shares the story of an individual dedicated to discipleship. Finally, students will be asked to take intentional steps toward making discipleship an important part of their communities. Bible Passage: John 15:1–17

Questions you can ask your child:

- 1) Where do you find community with other Christ-followers? Where do you go for encouragement and where do you encourage others?
- 2) Do you feel like our church is more like a locker room (a place to make a plan, encourage, and motivate) or a hospital (a place to find healing and rest)? Why?
- 3) What do love about our church? What would you like to change about our church?

Activity you can do together:

One the most powerful parts of community and connection in a church is that when struggle comes, the community cares. One of the cool ways members of church communities care for one another is by providing meals for members in need. Your church likely has a “meals ministry,” where people can sign up to provide a meal to a family who has just had a baby, has gone through surgery, is dealing with a death, or for other reasons. Sign up to regularly provide meals through this ministry. The entire family can get involved in choosing and making food together, and then everyone can deliver it to the family in need. It’s a meaningful way to care for your church community. If your church doesn’t have a ministry like this, consider starting one together!

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