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OUR MISSION. OUR CULTURE.

Week of October 3 - CONNECT¹

Overview:

How deeply are you invested in the mission of CCC? As we enter our 101st year as a church, we will explore what it means to be a part of God's kingdom, both within CCC and beyond. These sessions will invite you to **encounter Jesus, connect in community, discover your purpose, and contribute for kingdom impact**. Starting in January 2022, we'll offer this material in weekly interactive sessions to encourage everyone to become more fully vested in the life, mission, and culture of Christ Community Church.

Group Objectives:

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Have each person consider how they connect and create space for others to connect in community.

DNA statement(s) tie-in:

- *We do life together.* Every person of every generation is wanted needed, and known, and there's always room for one more.
- *We are on mission to reach one more.* Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join in his mission to reach one more.

Conversation Starters:

- Share a story of someone you wanted to be like when you were younger. How far did you go to "follow in their footsteps"?
- Share a story or two of how a life was transformed through being a part of a small group.

Read and Reflect: Bible Study Discussion

In the book of Acts, we read the story of what happened on earth after Jesus went to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit to indwell believers. Many of these stories in Acts illustrate the finest examples of what "group life" can be. While human nature can create conflict between people, the early church shows us some characteristics of those involved in deep and life-giving discipleship from the earliest days of Christian community.

- **Read Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-35**
 - From these texts, what are some of the activities and characteristics early Christians experienced in community life?
 - What sounds the same as your own "group life" experience? What sounds different?

¹ This week's lesson was written by Allison Dykhouse and edited by Dawn Gentry.

- What were some of the results of this lifestyle?
Everyone was filled with awe
Believers had everything in common – no one had any need
They had glad and sincere hearts
They praised God and enjoyed the favor of all people.
- What are some benefits of “doing life together” today?
We learn more in conversation
We are encouraged in our faith
We are challenged by our sin
We meet each other’s needs.

Most people walking through this lesson are probably already in a community group! You have already chosen to “do life” with these people. So, what challenges might we face when the value of “doing life together” intersects with the desire to “reach one more”?

- *The group will need more space*
- *The group feels too big to “go deep” and feel safe sharing with each other.*
- *The group needs to multiply into two groups, which can be painful.*
- *It can create a desire to **stop** inviting because we are tired of sharing friendships.*

In Acts 2:41, we read there were over 3000 believers, but in the rest of the text those believers continue to “meet together daily” and “broke bread in their homes.”

- How do you think they “created space” once one home was full? What would have happened if they had not continued to “create space”?
- Real tension exists between “we do life together” and “we are on mission to reach one more.” How do we do both? How can we model “Acts 2” living in our groups?
- Is there anything we will have to overcome as a group (or in our own hearts) before this could be a possibility for our group?

Summarize and Respond:

- What is great and healthy about our group?
- What might keep others from finding community and discipleship here?
- What is our group’s “best next step”?
 - *(Some possibilities are: commit to a group; invite someone to your group; pray about becoming a group leader or co-leader in your current group; consider if your group is ready to multiply into two amazing groups to allow more space for others to experience the community you love.)*

If you are interested in finding out more about multiplying your group, or exploring the possibility of leading a group, check out <https://www.ccomaha.org/leaderinfo>

Prayer Prompts:

- Invite members of the group to share personal prayer requests.
- Consider breaking into smaller groups of 2 or 3 for prayer and reflection.
- Pray for God to show individuals *and* the group as a whole what’s needed to take best next steps.