



CITY on a
HILL
C H U R C H

Community Guide

“Building a plan to better
love each other as the family of God.”

Gospel. **Community.** Mission.

We Are Family

Discovering How to Live and Love as Family.

Family – We are children of God the Father, who live and love as family.

A missional community is a group of believers who live and experience life together deeply caring for one another like family. They see God as their Father through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Meaning, they trust in Jesus' perfect divine life, his sacrificial death to erase the penalty and punishment for their sin, and his glorious resurrection to bring them new life in him. As a result, they are made new through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As God's Children (John 1:11-13), they are adopted and fully accepted and loved apart from any good behavior. When they believed the Gospel, they know they now have a perfect Father who loves them and accepts them not because of what they've done but because of what Christ has done. This leads them to worship God as Father and obey his word because they love him. They don't obey God in order to be loved by him. They obey God because he loved them while they were still his rebellious enemy.

This means they have and know of a divine love that leads them to love one another as brothers and sisters. They treat one another as children of God deeply loved by the Father in everything – sharing their money, time, resources, needs, hurts, successes, etc... They know each other well. This knowledge includes knowing each other's stories and having familiarity with one another's strength and struggles in regards to belief in the gospel and its application to all of life.

They speak the gospel truth to one another that's found in the bible, regularly building each other up in love. They also love the people around them as if they were part of the family, showing them what the love of the Father looks like and in so doing inviting them to experience life in the family of God. They recognize that they are God's family – set apart to live in such a way that the world would know what He is like. As God's family, they see it as their joy and responsibility to personally care for the needs of one another – both physically and spiritually. They disciple, nurture and hold each other accountable to Gospel life together. They do this through regularly gathering together to eat, play, rest, work, serve, pray etc. (Genesis 12:1-3; John 1:12-13; Romans 12:10-16)

We Are Family – Community Guide

10 Questions for Discovering How to Live & Love as The Family of God

1. As a CG, how can we stay in communication throughout the week to care, enjoy, laugh, encourage, support and pray for each other? (CG Leaders how will you do this individually for your CG as you lead out in care?)

- **Strategy Example:** We will use the “Slack App’ to communicate throughout the week. This allows us to connect to each other, other CG’s and the entire church. We commit to living “Open House” – meaning we will regularly inform the group of any day/time they can come over & hangout to read, work, eat, rest play etc.).
- **Frequency Example:** On Monday, we seek to record our prayer requests into slack to be prayed over during the week. On Friday we seek to share highs and lows of the week including who we may have shared the gospel with, something positive at work/school, or a challenge that we’ve been walking throughout the week.
- **CG Leaders Example:** As CG leaders, we seek to reach out to each individual in our CG through a text, call or email 1x a week to encourage, check-in and pray for.

(Use the space below to work out your strategy & Include how often you seek to do this.)

- **Your CG Strategy & Frequency:**
- **CG Leaders:**

2. What regular rhythms of spending time together will we commit to?

- **Strategy & Frequency Example:** As a CG, we commit to sharing at least 1 meal together monthly. This will take place the first Wednesday CG gathering of the month. We also commit to gathering every Wednesday from 6:30pm-8:00pm weekly for bible study, discussion, and prayer at the Pavs house. We also seek to have a “CG Hangout” 2x a month together just hanging out to watch a movie share a meal, play games go to Celtics games etc. We will use these 2x a month hangouts to invite our non-Christian friends and neighbors to join us as we seek to love them and share the truth and grace of Jesus with them.
 - In addition, we seek to regularly connect outside of our weekly gatherings informally through hanging out at the Park with our kids, watching occasional Celtics games together, game nights etc. We seek to communicate when going do these things like to the grocery, haircuts, working out, nights-out, etc into slack so others can join in.
 - Lastly, 1x a month we seek to serve our pocket of people through an outreach event or service in the community (October: Halloween Outreach / November: Friendsgiving). (more on this later in the next guide)
- **Your CG Strategy & Frequency:**

3. What meals will we share with one another, and how often?

- **Strategy & Frequency Example:** As a CG, we commit to sharing 1 meal together the first Wednesday CG gathering of the month. Also Sunday's after the church gathering, we seek to share lunch with available CG members inviting guests, non-Christian friends and neighbors to join in as well. We also seek to celebrate the birthdays of our CG members by sharing a special treat before CG (cake/ice-cream/cake) while sharing "evidences of grace" in that person's life to encourage them.
- **Your CG Strategy & Frequency:**

4. How will we make sure all of us know one another's stories? How then can we help each other to grow in serving in light of their unique design by God?

- **Strategy & Frequency Example:** Each month after we share our monthly meal together, one person from the CG will share their testimony/story using the "Story Template" Sharing their backgrounds, family upbringing, cultural/social values, spiritual highlights, enneagram/personality, spiritual gifts, strengths, weaknesses etc. Then as a CG we will spend a few moments praying for the person who shared.
- **Your CG Strategy & Frequency:**

5. In what ways can we build, encourage, and preserve a culture of speaking the gospel to the areas of struggle and unbelief in each other's hearts?

- **Strategy & Frequency Example:** As a way to learn our own hearts and the hearts of others where we struggle to believe the gospel, we commit to taking the enneagram assessment <https://www.wepss.com/> and begin learning how to "speak the gospel" to each other using the "enneagram formation plan" template. We also commit to being open and honest with how we're really doing and feeling. We strive to being open and host with our struggles, doubts, fears, worries, failures, sins, temptations, weaknesses. And we seek to give good news to each BEFORE we seek to give good advice.
- **Your CG Strategy & Frequency:**

6. How will we commit to prayer for one another?

- **Strategy & Frequency Example:** On Monday, we seek to record our prayer requests into our group channel in slack. Then as a CG, we commit to Tuesday as our specific day to pray for others in our CG – although we commit to praying for each other throughout the week.. On Friday, we seek to share "highlights and struggles" from the week into our group channel in slack – including who we may have shared the gospel with, something positive at work/school/personal life, or a challenge that we've been walking throughout recently. (Potentially working on a rotation of weekly prayer partners)
- **Your CG Strategy & Frequency:**

7. In what ways will we intentionally celebrate together, and around what?

- **Strategy & Frequency Example:** As a CG, we will collect a list of Birthdays, record anniversaries, new employment dates, graduation, baby showers, promotions, citizenship, holidays, and seasonal events. We commit to creating a shared CG Calendar with these lists/dates as to record and remember them in order to ensure we celebrate each other with each other. We also seek to plan quarterly together pulling out the calendar at the first Wednesday of each month to discuss upcoming celebrations or, seasonal plans (Friendsgiving for example), to ensure we plan well to celebrate with each other.
- **Your CG Strategy & Frequency:**

8. What actions will we commit to in order to express our love for one another as brothers and sisters?

- **Strategy & Frequency Example:** As a CG, we commit to helping each other with financial and physical needs, counsel in struggles, babysit, fix meal, gift cards, favorite treat, share possessions – car, clothes, dishes, books, money etc. as needs arise. We commit to being open and honest about proactively sharing our own needs and being proactive about asking others about theirs.
- **Your CG Strategy & Frequency:**

9. What study/training do we need to go through in light of where we all need to grow?

- **Strategy & Frequency Example:** Our CG commits to growing in our understanding of how to “gospel ourselves and one-another. As a result we commit to taking the “enneagram assessment using WEPPS and walking through the “Enneagram Formation Plan’ that incorporates scripture to help in this endeavor.
- **Your CG Strategy & Frequency:**

10. What are next steps for those in your group? Baptism? Membership? Daily Bible reading plan? Are any of us who believe the gospel not yet baptized? What next steps should we take in obeying Jesus’ command to be baptized (Matt 28:19-20)

- **Strategy & Frequency Example:** As a CG we seek to pray & read the Bible daily for at least 20 minutes. A few of us will be pursuing membership in the coming months. And we are actively praying for and sharing the gospel with one of our regular CG attenders.
- **Your CG Strategy & Frequency:**

Additional Questions to Consider

1. How will we commit to listen in prayer for the Father's love and guidance for us as a family? Both as an MC and as individuals?
2. How will we extend the family to those who are still unreconciled to the Father?
3. How will we insure that each of us is involved in regular, intimate discipleship, nurture, and accountability (DNA)?
4. How will we be good family to the other Missional Communities in our Cluster?
5. How will we honor the elders and other leaders in the CoaH Family appointed to shepherd us?
6. In what ways do we all need to grow spiritually to faithfully live as God's family? Specifically, how will we foster that growth? (Disciple)
7. How will we teach and learn from the other Missional Communities in our cluster? (Disciple)
8. When and how will we share the stories of what God is doing in and through us with others in the CoaH Family?
9. What regular rhythms of ReCreating will we commit to together?
10. What is it about the gospel that makes us family?
11. How has God loved us?
12. In what ways has he loved us?
13. What has become true of us because of his love for us?
14. As children of God called to love one another as brothers and sisters, how should we love one another?
15. As children of God sent to show the Father's love to the lost children around us, how should we love those he is sending us to reach?



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