

Community Groups are not a form of therapy. They are not a network, program or event. They are a lifestyle of discipleship, made possible because of the death and resurrection of Jesus; a testimony to the truth of God's love and power!

Acts 2:42-47; Mathew 28:19-20

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Acts 2:42

Love the Gospel, Live the Gospel, Advance the Gospel

- Read Acts 2:42-47, Matthew 28:19-20 and Hebrews 10:19-25 out loud.
- What is so unique about the community we find in Acts 2:42-47?
- What should be common of every community that follows Jesus?
- Community Groups are the vehicle for primarily three things: discipleship, pastoral care and mission. Which area stood out to you the most and why? What could happen if we only focus on one area over another?
- How are Community Groups a vehicle for *discipleship*? Has your view of discipleship been adjusted? If so, how?
- Are there any obstacles to your ongoing participation in a Community Group? If so, how can you overcome them? Consider Hebrews 10:23-24. Also consider praying about these obstacles with someone else.
- What role does a Community Group play in pastoral care and how important is that to the health of Gulf Coast Community Church?
- What is *contextualization* and how does it impact the way we view the role of Community Groups and mission?
- In your own words describe what Community Groups are ultimately about. Read Acts 2:42-47 and pray we will more and more reflect what we see there.

Community Groups: A Lifestyle of Discipleship

Acts 2:42-47

A devoted community
A growing community

“God made us as persons-in-community to be the vehicle through which he would reveal his glory...”

Joined to one another, devoted to one another, counsel and honor one another, confess our sins, forgive, bear with, carry the burdens of, be kind to, teach and admonish, build up, pray for, and LOVE one another.

Care groups: “The heart beat of the church”

1 Peter 2:9-12

Community groups are a vehicle for primarily three things: discipleship, pastoral care and mission.

1. Community groups: a vehicle for discipleship

Matthew 28:19-20

When you think “discipleship” what comes to mind?

- One to one mtg
- Classes: one on several
- Preaching: one to many
- Community: one-another

Brad House: "...discipleship is about providing a means by which we begin to shepherd people in the direction of maturity... Discipleship classes and the like can only be considered a booster shot within a greater strategy for discipleship. This is because discipleship is a lifelong pursuit."

Hebrews 10:19-25

The Application of God's Word

Accountability

2. Community groups: pastoral care

We want to make sure every member is being cared for and is caring for others.
Community groups are the primary place you will find care here at Gulf Coast Community Church.

3. Community groups: mission

You are a *missionary*.

God sent His Son and now He is sending us to image His Son.

Contextualization = "*The communication of the gospel in a particular place, time and culture, to a particular people, in a way that it can be understood without diluting the truth.*" (1 Corinthians 9:20-22)

The *rhythm* of our Community Groups
"*The when, where and what of community*"

Multiplication as one of the goals
At 20 people we split. Why?