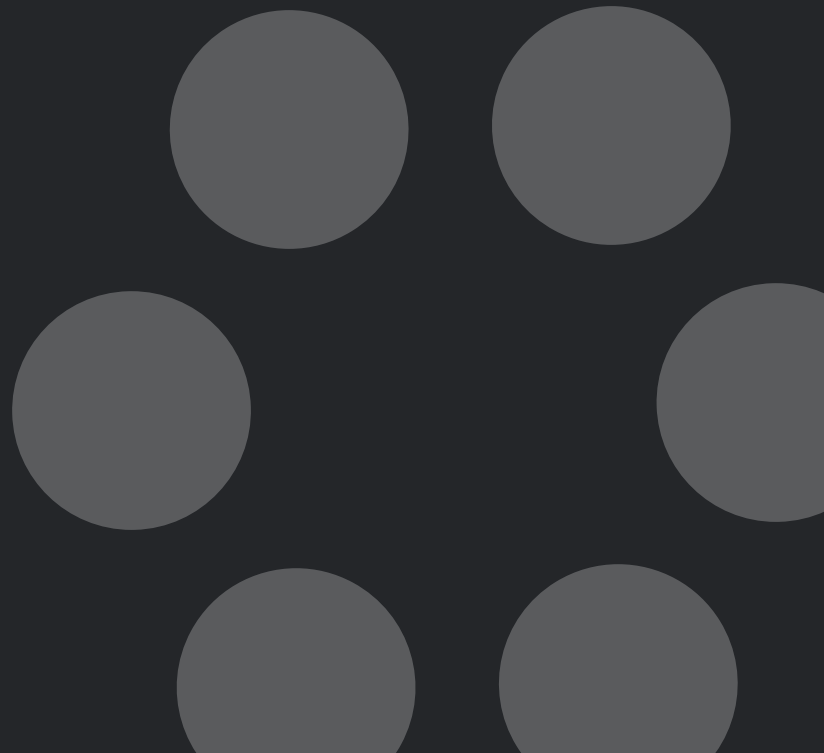


CommunityGroups Primer — Leader Guide



Introduction

Congratulations on starting with your new Community Group! We're so excited for you to begin this journey of starting a new Community Group. This guide is intended to help walk you through the conversations that are necessary in the development of a healthy, sustainable, Christ Community Community Group. This guide has been specifically written for the person who will be helping facilitate the group for the next few weeks. We recommend that the leader read through the content for each week prior to meeting with their Community Group.

Towards the back of this booklet is the Community Group Commitment to write down any decisions that your group makes. **Please be sure to fill this out.** This will be helpful for your Community Group to reference in the future. Throughout this guide, you will be prompted to fill out specific parts of it.

In the back, you'll also find the Community Group Rhythms document. This can be used to help your Community Group decide what kind of specific rhythms you'd like to incorporate into your Community Group.

If you have any questions at all, you can reach out to groups@ccclife.org. We're excited, and we have been praying for you to begin this journey!

Table of Contents

Week 1: Constructing your Community Group	04
Week 2: Belong as Family	11
Week 3: Grow as Disciples	14
Week 4: Serve and Reach Your Community	18
One Final Note	22
The Community Group Commitment	23
Community Group Rhythms	26

Week 1

Constructing Your Community Group

Overview

Welcome to week one! Tonight, the goal is to get to know each other a little bit better and to work out some of the important logistical details for your Community Group. Working out some of these details up front will help us establish some helpful consistency for your Community Group. We recommend having some food and drinks on the first night — that can help people feel more comfortable.

Welcome and Introductions

(25 minutes)

Go around and have everyone introduce themselves answering the following questions:

1. Name
2. How long have you been attending Christ Community?
3. If you could teach any sort of class on any subject, what would you teach and to whom?

Community Group Logistics

(30 minutes)

Now, let's take some time to discuss all of the logistical details for your Community Group. Whatever decisions are made, be sure to write all of them down in **Section 3** of the Community Group Commitment (towards the end of this guide).

Day of Week, Time, and Frequency

Take some time to discuss which day would be best for gathering. We recommend starting with a day of the week and asking if anyone is not able to make it (e.g., “Is anyone not able to make Monday evening work?”).

If you are not able to find a consistent evening that works for everyone, pick the day that works for the most people in the Community Group. Anyone who is not able to make that day work can reach out to groups@ccclife.org and we’ll help those people find another Community Group to connect to.

While you can discuss the frequency (weekly or biweekly) with your Community Group, the leader will ultimately have to decide about the frequency of the group gatherings.

Location

Next, you’ll need to have a conversation about where your group is going to be meeting. If multiple people want to host, you can have a conversation about rotating hosts each week. Also, keep in mind that a family with younger kids may prefer to host so they can put their kids to bed at some point during the night.

- Talk through the following questions:
- Are there any families with kids who would prefer to host for bedtime routine purposes?
- Would anyone else like to host?

Day of Week, Time, and Frequency

Next, you'll want to talk about how people want to communicate with each other. Here are some common platforms that other Community Groups will typically use:

- Text Messaging
- GroupMe
- Slack
- WhatsApp

Talk through this question:

- Does anyone have a preference on what communication method we use?

Be sure to get everyone's contact information (phone number and email) before they leave so you can start your group chat.

Leaders

Next, you'll want to have a conversation about Community Group Leadership. Community Group leaders are people who help facilitate and plan group gatherings as well as serve as the main point of contact with Christ Community leadership. To get a better sense of what a Community Group Leader is responsible for, you can access the job description [HERE](#). We recommend that groups have two co-leaders. This makes group leadership more manageable and sustainable in the long-run.

If someone volunteers to be a leader, they can get started with the leader onboarding process by reaching out to groups@ccclife.org.

Talk through this question:

- Is anyone interested in helping co-lead this Community Group?
 - If no one responds, revisit the question the following week.

Community Coordinators

We recommend that every Community Group has two additional coordinators:

- **Hospitality Coordinator:** Coordinates hosting and any food that the Community Group decides to have.
- **Serving Coordinator:** Coordinates the serving opportunities for the Community Group to engage in after the group has discussed which serving opportunity they'd like to participate in.

While these are the two coordinators every group should have, you can have other types of coordinators too! This could mean someone who makes sure that everyone's birthday is celebrated or plans a fun evening for the group. Everyone has something different to offer and contribute to the group, so we recommend getting creative with what these roles could look like.

You don't have to ask who would like to fill the Coordinator roles now — this will be something that will come up over the course of the next few weeks. But people can start thinking about it now and think about if there is a role that they would like to fill.

Childcare

If your group doesn't have to worry about childcare, you can skip this section. But if anyone has children in your Community Group, you'll want to discuss this.

First, you'll want to talk about how your group would like to incorporate kids into your Community Group. We recommend trying to incorporate kids into your Community Group where it's possible and it makes the most sense. Your group will have to balance the ideal of incorporating kids with what is practical and realistic. This will also likely take some time to figure out, so if the parents need some time to think about this, that's fine.

Talk through this question with your Community Group:

- Acknowledging that finding a balance is going to probably take some time, does anyone have any ideas for how we could incorporate kids into our Community Group? *Note: start with asking the parents in the room this question first.*

Childcare can be challenging, but here are a couple of options that we've seen work for Community Groups:

- Have a rotation of people in the Community Group who are willing to watch the kiddos.
- All of the families with kids pitch in for a babysitter each week, and the babysitter can watch the kids in a different room. If you have two people that live close together, you can have the kids stay at one house with a babysitter while the adults meet at another house.

For anyone that needs financial support for finding a babysitter, you can visit the Childcare Reimbursement page (<https://ccclife.org/childcarereimbursement>) on our website to learn more about how to get reimbursed for childcare expenses.

Commitments

(5 minutes)

In Section 4 of the Community Group Commitment, we have standard commitments that we want everyone to make in each Community Group. Take some time to read through each of the commitments.

After reading through the commitments, discuss these questions:

- Are there any other commitments that we need to add?
- Does everyone feel comfortable with making these commitments as we get started?

Looking Ahead

(5 minutes)

Over the course of the next three weeks, your group will discuss each of the core values of our church (belonging, growing, serving, and reaching) and see how they apply to Community Groups. Each week, you'll watch a short video or teaching, have some discussion questions, and then talk about how your group would like to integrate that value into your Community Group.

Additionally, over the course of the next several weeks, you'll also have each person share a little bit more about themselves with the rest of the Community Group. Vulnerability and trust is something that is grown — not expected — so people should only share what they feel comfortable sharing.

Here's the assignment:

- Choose three people to come ready to share something about themselves that they want everyone to know. To facilitate that, have them bring an item they can use as a way to focus what they would like to talk about and share.
- Each person should have about 5 minutes to share (we recommend setting a timer so it doesn't go too long!)
- This shouldn't be super serious or heavy, but in fact, we encourage the opposite - keep it light and fun!
- Whoever shares gets to choose one person to share the next week. Each week, you should have three people sharing until everyone in your Community Group has gone.

Talk through this question as a group:

- Is there anyone who would like to volunteer to bring an object and share something about themselves next week?

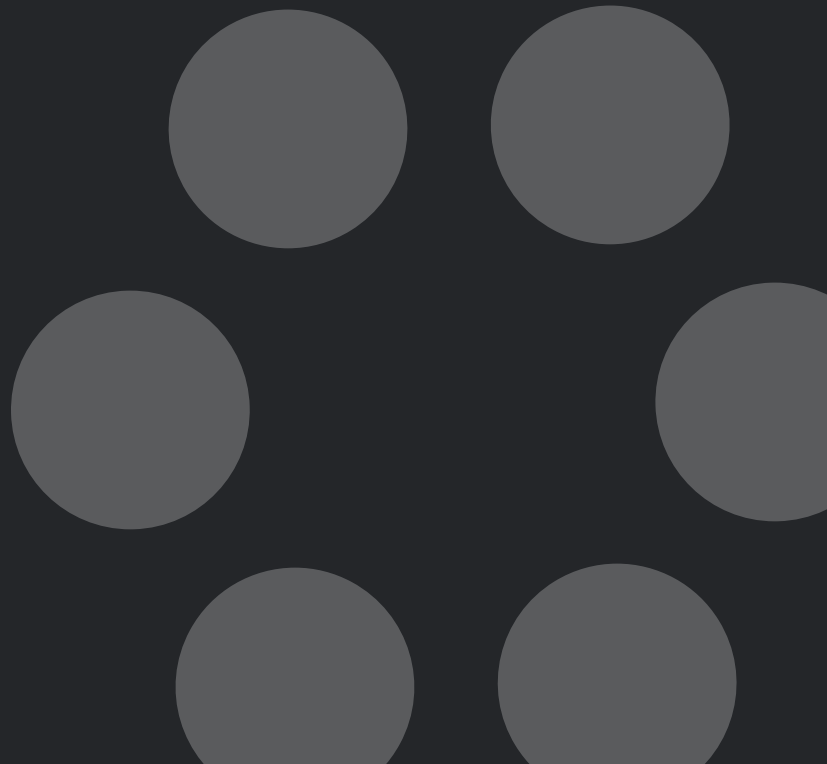
Prayer

(5 minutes)

Take a few minutes to close out your gathering in prayer.

Week 2

Belong as Family



Overview

Welcome to week two! Today, your group will focus on the value of belonging. Belonging is an essential part of being a follower of Jesus, and today, we want to explore what that means in the context of a Community Group.

Story Sharing

(15-20 minutes)

Last week, three people were selected to share something about themselves. One at a time, have each person share and have someone else set a timer for five minutes. Try not to ask any questions while the person is talking. If there is extra time after the person is done sharing, people in the group can then ask questions.

Belonging Video

(13 minutes)

Spend some time watching [this short video](#) on belonging, and talk through the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions

(20 minutes)

Take some time to talk through the following questions as a Community Group:

- What was one thing that stood out to you from the video as it relates to belonging?
- Describe a time where you didn't feel like you belonged somewhere. What was that like?
- In your experience, has church (whether CCC or another church) been a place where you feel like you belong? Why or why not?
- In the video, they talked about the idea of belonging to the church — both locally and globally. How do you think belonging to the local church helps us grow as believers?

- Why can belonging be so challenging in the context of a Community Group?
- In the video, Daniel shared a quote that said, “Without conflict, there’s no intimacy. Without intimacy, there’s no community.” What kinds of reactions or thoughts do you have to this quote?

Belonging Rhythm

(15 minutes)

Now, it’s time to spend some time as a group talking about how you would like to incorporate the belonging rhythm into your Community Group.

You may already have a sense of how you would like to integrate the belonging value into your Community Group, which is great! If you have ideas, feel free to share them with your group and talk about them. If you’re still not sure, take some time to revisit the “Community Group Rhythms” document at the back of this guide.

Then, discuss these questions with your Community Group:

- In light of what we talked about tonight, are there any specific belonging rhythms we’d like to integrate into our Community Group?
- Is anyone interested in being the hospitality coordinator for our Community Group (this person typically helps create the space for people to feel a sense of belonging)?

Remember, whatever you decide tonight doesn’t need to be set in stone! Things can change. This is just a good way to get started. Whatever you decide as a group, write this down in Section 2 under the “Belonging” rhythm of your Community Group Commitment.

Prayer

(10 minutes)

In groups of three, have each person share if they have any specific prayer requests and pray over each person.

Week 3

Grow as Disciples

Overview

Welcome to week three! Today, your group is going to focus on the value of growing. As followers of Jesus, our aim is to constantly be growing and become more like him. We're going to explore what it looks like for us to grow both individually as Christ followers, and together as a Community Group.

Story Sharing

(15 minutes)

Last week, three new people should have been selected to bring an object and share something about themselves that they want everyone in the group to know. One at a time, have each person share and have someone else set a timer for five minutes. Try not to ask any questions while the person is talking. If there is extra time after the person is done sharing, people in the group can then ask questions.

Growing Video

(10 minutes)

Spend some time watching [this short video](#) on growing, and talk through the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions

(20 minutes)

Take some time to talk through the following questions as a Community Group:

- How have you typically understood discipleship? Is it similar or different from what was described in the video? Note: The video wasn't comprehensive, just enough to hopefully stir up some thoughts or ideas.
- Are there specific spiritual disciplines you've found to help you commune and experience God more (Sabbath, scripture memorization, prayer, silence and solitude, etc.)? How so?
- In the video, there were three primary "growing" practices that every Community Group should engage in: bible study, prayer, and accountability. Which of these will feel the most natural to you? Which of these might feel challenging or difficult?
- Are there tangible ways you've seen God working in your life recently (e.g., becoming less anxious, ability to release control, etc.)?

Growing Rhythm

(15 minutes)

A big part of the growing rhythm is determining the type of content that your Community Group is going to go through. **We recommend that every Community Group starts with sermon-based discussion after finishing this guide.** This is a great way to continue discussing and applying what is being communicated through the weekend teachings. While you may already have a sense of what content your group is going to start with, it's still helpful to know what other people might be interested in exploring.

Remember, we ask all groups to go through at least eight weeks of Bible Savvy and eight weeks of sermon based discussion throughout the year.

Here are some questions to talk through together as a Community Group:

- Are there any specific topics that people would like to discuss in our Community Group?
- How can we provide accountability for each other in our Community Group?

If you're still looking for ideas on content to cover in your Community Group, you can visit ccclife.org/leaderresources for some additional ideas or reach out to your Community Group Coach.

Whatever you decide as a group, write this down in Section 2 under the "Growing" rhythm of your Community Group Commitment.

Remember, whatever you decide tonight doesn't need to be set in stone! Things can change. This is just a good way to get started. Whatever you decide as a group, write this down in Section 2 under the "Belonging" rhythm of your Community Group Commitment.

Prayer

(10 minutes)

Take a couple of minutes to allow everyone to reflect on one way they want to continue growing in their relationship with God. Then, in groups of three, share your responses. Then, in those same groups, spend some time praying over each person and what they shared.

Week 4

Serve and Reach Your Community

Overview

Welcome to week 4! Today, your group is going to focus on the values of serving and reaching. While serving and reaching are two distinct values at our church, they are typically done together in the context of a Community Group, which is why we've combined them for this week. We're going to explore what it looks like for us to serve and reach our neighbors with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Story Sharing

(15 minutes)

Last week, three new people should have been selected to bring an object and share something about themselves that they want everyone in the group to know. One at a time, have each person share and have someone else set a timer for five minutes. Try not to ask any questions while the person is talking. If there is extra time after the person is done sharing, people in the group can then ask questions.

Serving & Reaching Video

(11 minutes)

Spend some time watching [this short video](#) on serving and reaching, and talk through the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions

(20 minutes)

Take some time to talk through the following questions as a Community Group:

- Describe a time when you voluntarily served somewhere. What did you enjoy about it?
- Why do you think it's important for us as Christians to serve our local communities?
- How can serving someone be a good opportunity to share the gospel?
- Do you think it's helpful to view you and your community group as "missionaries"? Why or why not?
- What excites you as you think about ways to engage your community together as a group?

Serving & Reaching Rhythm

(15 minutes)

This week, you'll want to talk with your Community Group about how you can serve and reach your community. Start by taking some time to look through some of the different organizations we partner with as a church. To do this, you can visit ccclife.org/communityimpact and select which campus you attend.

After you do this, here are some questions to talk through together as a Community Group:

- Are there any specific opportunities or organizations that people are interested in partnering with?
- Does anyone have any other ideas of how we can serve and reach our community (e.g., helping a widow with yard work, writing kind notes to teachers at a local school during finals week, etc.)?
- Is there an organization that we can partner with and serve on a regular basis?
- Is anyone interested in being the serving coordinator for our Community Group (*Note: you can have more than one person fill this role*)?

Whatever you decide as a group, write this down in Section 2 under the “Serving/Reaching” rhythm of your Community Group Commitment. Then, scan the QR code below to fill out the form through Community Impact, and they will reach out to you with some next steps.



Prayer

(10 minutes)

In groups of three, have each person share if they have any specific prayer requests and pray over each person.

One Final Note...

Congratulations!

At this point, you should have your Community Group Commitment completely filled out! Take some time to review it with your Community Group and make sure that everyone is willing to commit to it. This is a living document that we recommend revisiting at least two times every year. After you've finalized your Community Group Commitment, be sure to email a photo or copy of it to your Community Group Director and Coach.

Depending on the number of people in your Community Group, not everyone may not have had the chance to complete the exercise of bringing an object and sharing something about themselves. Make sure that everyone gets the chance to share if they haven't yet by the end of this guide.

Designing your Community Group Commitment

This worksheet is designed to help you think through the purpose, rhythms, logistics, and commitments of your Community Group. Once you've completed this worksheet, this will become your Community Group Commitment. We recommend revisiting this document with your group at least 2x a year to determine if anything needs to change.

Section 1 | Purpose: What are we about?

All Community Groups share this purpose:

To become passionate disciples of Jesus Christ who are belonging, growing, serving, and reaching.

Section 2 | Group Rhythms: How are we going to accomplish our purpose?

*This section can be completed by the group leaders or the entire group together. In either case, everyone should affirm what is decided upon.

Belonging Rhythms:

Growing Rhythms:

Serving/Reaching Rhythms:

Section 3 | Logistics: What practical things need to happen for us to accomplish our purpose?

*This section should be completed with everyone in the group present.

Day of Week: _____

Time: _____

Frequency: Weekly / Biweekly

Location / Town: _____

of Adults: _____

Primary Communication Platform: _____

Community Group Leaders: _____

Community Coordinators:

Other Roles: _____

Childcare plan:

Section 4 | Commitments: What other things do we need to commit to as a community?

- Actively participate in the life of Christ Community Church. This includes regular attendance and involvement in Sunday services.
- Regular Community Group attendance unless you're out of town, sick, or there is an unforeseen, unavoidable circumstance.
- Phone call to the Community Group Leader at least 24 hours in advance for any absence.
- Engagement in the rhythms of Community Group life: belonging, growing, and serving/reaching.
- Being present with each other (e.g., no phones, engaging honestly in discussion, etc.).
- Sharing responsibilities (e.g., food, clean up, personal needs that arise, praying together, etc.).
- Maintaining confidentiality

Community Group Rhythms

Use this list to help craft which rhythms you'd like to intentionally integrate into your Community Group. "Baseline" rhythms are things that every Community Group should be doing. "Stretch" rhythms are things that are really good to do as a Community Group, but not required.

Belonging

Baseline Rhythms	Stretch Rhythms
<p>Share life together: Spend at least 15-20 minutes of every group gathering getting to know one another better. This could be done through an icebreaker question or just catching up on life.</p> <p>Practice hospitality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a welcoming atmosphere where people can share openly and honestly.• Be willing to welcome newcomers into your group.	<p>Find a regular time to share a meal with your Community Group (e.g., weekly, biweekly, monthly).</p> <p>Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and other important dates in your group.</p> <p>Set aside extended time hanging out (e.g., board game night, party/celebration, etc.)</p> <p>Attend service with each other.</p>

Growing

Baseline Rhythms	Stretch Rhythms
<p>Study Scripture: Go through at least 8 weeks of Bible Savvy and 8 weeks of sermon-based discussion on an annual basis.</p> <p>Practice Accountability: Share a practical application you intend to integrate into your life and provide accountability with how it went .</p> <p>Pray for each other: Spend time praying for one another.</p>	<p>Use the discussion questions provided with each of the sermons.</p> <p>Find a study on RightNow Media on the CCC channel.</p>

Serving/Reaching

Baseline Rhythms	Stretch Rhythms
<p>Meet needs and bless others: Participate in the Great “week” of serving as a Community Group.</p>	<p>Find a ministry/initiative in your local area your group can support on a regular basis</p> <p>Send someone from your Community Group on a Go Team trip.</p> <p>Find a ministry for your group to serve in the church together.</p>