



Week 2

WE BUILD CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY

LEADER NOTES

A word from Pastor Brian-

"In this week's message, I will emphasize the beauty of the church and God's plan to fill the earth with communities of Christ centered people. It is God's design to reach the world by multiplying communities of Christ centered light all over the world, and we His people, when we are healthy spiritually, are that light. The more space we have to bring people under the proclamation of the Word the more people we can then fold into Christ centered communities that will be points of light throughout the community so that the kingdom will grow."

A note to leaders- We recognize this curriculum includes more material than your group will have time to engage with deeply. Please feel free to adapt portions to suit your group. We strongly encourage you to select questions that you consider "high priority" and skip questions that you do not have time to include.

OPEN IN PRAYER (5 MIN.)

Welcome everyone and kick off the meeting in prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your discussion.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION (10 MIN.)

Use the question below or feel free to adapt a question of your own that is community related.

- Where have you personally experienced community the strongest (family, sports team, small group, missions trip, clubs, work, military, etc.)? What contributed to the strong sense of community?

LAUNCHING - OPTIONAL (5 MIN.)

Use this time to ask if anyone tried the activities suggested in the Going Deeper portion from last week and get feedback.

- How is your "hunger for the word" growing?
- Did anyone read Psalm 119? What jumped out at you?

Encourage members to explore the topics suggested in the future.

DISCUSSION (45 MIN.)

Imagine: If there were no church and we were simply called to follow and proclaim Christ on our own. What would we lose? Make a list.

1. What would be the greatest loss to you personally from the list?

Read Acts 2:37-47.

2. Based on these verses, describe what you think church life was like then.
3. How is it the same and how is it different today?
4. How does a local church community help fulfill the first purpose of the church: "To proclaim the Word"? (See Colossians 1:28-29 and Matthew 28:18-20)
5. If we all remained isolated Christ followers, how would these purposes be much more difficult to achieve?

Read the "snapshots" of a church community together: Colossians 3:12-17, Romans 12:3-21, Ephesians 4:25-5:5

6. How does a church community help people maintain and grow their faith?
7. How does isolation and absence of a church community contribute to the weakening or loss of faith?
8. How does a church community help people get through crisis in their lives?
9. How does isolation and absence of a church community make people more vulnerable to loss in a time of crisis?
10. What are some things that weaken or threaten the health of a church community, and how can we all help to prevent those things from happening?

PRAYER (5-10 MIN.)

A guiding vision of the Life Group ministry at Woodlands Church is to connect people ***until no one walks alone***. After discussing this week's questions, spend some time praying for this vision to take root in each person who calls Woodlands their church home. Here are some suggestions:

- Seek the Lord's blessing on your group, that He would deepen your relationship with Him and one another.
- Pray that each person in your group would experience a genuine saving and sustaining relationship with Jesus that compels them to share Christ with others.
- Pray for people at Woodlands who are not yet connected in a group to have a hunger and desire to get connected and for courage to take steps to join a group.
- Pray for our eyes to be opened to people and live an invitational life that seeks to draw people into Christ-centered community.
- Ask God to raise up new leaders and prepare people who have never led before so that there are more places for new people to get connected.

GOING DEEPER (ON YOUR OWN)

The following ideas are suggestions for people who would like to go deeper during their personal time with the Lord over the coming week.

Relational: Sunday, September 30th is the candlelight prayer and worship night. Reach out to someone in your group and attend this event together. Sometimes knowing that you have someone to be with makes these nights even more impactful.

Transformational: Here are some suggestions for your quiet time this week:

- Pray for the health of your group (Life, Men's, Women's, Discussion) and that more people at Woodlands Church would take a step to become connected until no one walks alone. Pray for any needs and requests raised by members in your group.
- Reading the Word- Pick which works best for you, but commit to be in the written Word!
 - Woodlands in the Word
 - Old Testament: 2 Chron. 33-36, Ezra, Nehemiah 1
 - New Testament: 1 Tim 1-5
 - Ephesians 1- Read this slowly throughout the week and ask the Lord to help you live out its truths.
 - Revisit the passages from this week's study.
 - Scripture memory verse: Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer." CSB

Missional: The moving ministry is always looking for people eager to help those who are in need of assistance as they face a move, and typically is involved in at least 1 move every week. This is a tangible way to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Serving together is a wonderful way to bring the light of Jesus to our community! For information on the moving ministry or other missional ideas for your group, call the church office or [click here](#).

FOLLOW UP

Pray that the people in your group would catch the vision for being points of light in our community.