

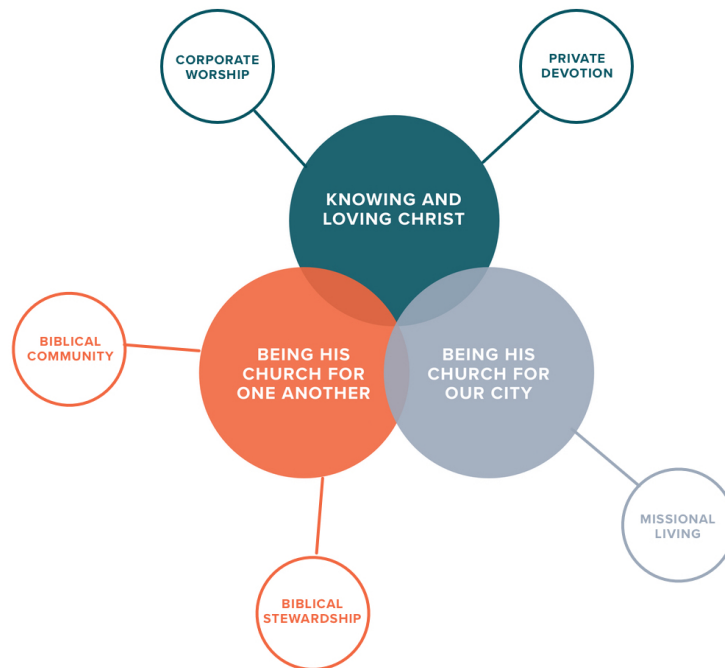


COMMUNITY GROUP LEADERSHIP

# EMBODYING THE MISSION

## OUR MISSION

...to lead people to know and love Christ and be his church for one another, our city, and the world.



## EMBODYING THE MISSION

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Acts 2:42-47

## THE MISSION OF A GROUP

To know and love Christ and be his church for one another, our city, and the world, **together**.

## THE RHYTHMS OF A GROUP

- **Family Gatherings:** The rhythm of sharing our lives with one another in both formal and informal settings and gathering together during the everyday and ordinary events of life.
- **Bible Study:** The rhythm of engaging with God and one another through the study of Scripture and prayer in order to know Christ more deeply and follow him more faithfully.
- **Life on Life:** The rhythm of seeking to apply the truths of the gospel to our own lives while encouraging genuine gospel transformation in the lives of others.
- **Serving Our City:** The rhythm of encouraging one another, and considering together, how to intentionally serve and actively display the love of Christ to our city.

## GROUPS ON THE GROUND EXERCISE

RHYTHMS	FAMILY GATHERING	BIBLE STUDY	LIFE ON LIFE	SERVING OUR CITY
<b>COMMITMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meals</li> <li>• Shared life</li> <li>• Serving one another</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging God and one another through the Scriptures and prayer in order to know Christ more deeply and follow him more faithfully</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A desire to share the deep things of life with one another</li> <li>• A desire to see genuine gospel transformation in the lives of each other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A heart to encourage one another and consider together how to intentionally serve and actively display the love of Christ to our city</li> </ul>
<b>EMBODIMENT</b>  How will your group live out these commitments together? Schedule / Rhythm.	Family Gathering:	Bible Study:	Life on Life:	Serving Our City:

## GROUPS ON MISSION COMMITMENT

The gospel not only draws us into community with God and God's people (the church), it also sends us out. We are a sent people.

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:20, *"We are Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."*

The church is a collection of reconciled ambassadors through which God makes his appeal of reconciliation to the world.

***This is why we desperately believe groups should have missional clarity.***

Failing to begin on mission, or failing to define your groups mission, simply makes it that much more difficult to get on mission.

One of the greatest steps a group can make is to take the time to think through **who** they are going to be a sent people to. Consider and answer the statement below to help you process.

**As a group we agree to support one another in loving, serving, and sharing the gospel with:**

## 6 SIMPLE WAYS TO BE ON MISSION

Mission is not an event we tack onto our already busy lives. It is our life. Mission should be the way we live, not something we add onto life: “As you go, make disciples”; “Walk wisely towards outsiders”; “Let your speech always be seasoned with salt”; “be prepared to give a defense for your hope.” Below are 6 simple ways to be on mission without adding to your schedule.

### 1. Eat with Non-Christians

We all eat three meals a day. Why not make a habit of sharing one of those meals with a non-Christian or with a family of non-Christians? Go to lunch with a co-worker, not by yourself. Invite the neighbors over for family dinner. If it's too much work to cook a big dinner, just order pizza and put the focus on conversation.

### 2. Walk & Use Your Front Yard

Make a practice of getting out and walking around and intentionally spending time your front yard. Instead of driving to the mailbox, walk to get mail. Consider cooking out in the front yard. Be deliberate and seek to engage with everyone you come in contact with.

### 3. Be a Regular

Instead of hopping all over the city for gas, groceries, haircuts, eating out, and coffee, go to the same places for each of these. Get to know the staff. Go to the same places at the same times. Smile. Ask questions. Be a regular.

### 4. Hobby with Non-Christians

Pick a hobby that you can share. Get out and do something you enjoy with others. Try city league sports. Use your kid's hobbies and interests to meet other parents. Share your hobby by teaching lessons. Be prayerful. Be intentional. Be winsome. Have fun. Be yourself.

### 5. Talk to Your Co-workers

Take your breaks with intentionality. Go out with your team or task force after work. Show interest in your co-workers. Pick four and pray for them. Form a moms group in your neighborhood and don't make it exclusively Christian. Schedule play dates with the neighbors' kids. Live on mission in your workplace.

### 6. Serve your Neighbors

Help a neighbor by weeding, mowing, building a cabinet, or fixing a car. Stop by the neighborhood association or apartment office and ask if there is anything you can do to help improve things. Ask your local Police and Fire Stations if there is anything you can do to help them. Get creative. Just serve!

## **THE ROLE OF A SHEPHERD**

To lead groups to know and love Christ and be his church for our city and the world.

## **THE HEART OF A SHEPHERD**

- A genuine love for Christ, His Church, and Our City
- A genuine love for believers and non-believers
- A desire to help others grow in their love for Christ, His Church, and Our City
- A commitment to the long process of seeing people grow in faith and obedience
- A commitment to supporting the mission of Christ Church
- Meets & maintains the requirements of a deacon as seen in 1 Timothy 3

## **THE PRACTICES OF A SHEPHERD**

Model the mission

- To love Christ by knowing him through His Word, while seeking to live out the reality of the gospel in your daily life.
- To build His Church as you live out the reality of the gospel in authentic biblical community, freely giving of yourselves and your resources to build up the body of Christ and enhance her witness in the world.
- To be for our city as you live out the reality of the gospel where you live, work, and play—displaying the love of Christ and hope of the gospel in all you say and do.
- Regularly pray for the individuals within your community.
- Regularly consider how your community is embodying the mission, with a willingness to offer humble and loving correction to individuals as needed.
- Regularly consider the next steps of obedience, faith, and practice for your community, with a willingness to share leadership as you process and plan.
- Regularly meet with your coach for processing, encouragement, and support.
- Regularly attend shepherds huddles and retreats.