



**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY GUIDE**

for March 27, 2022

Part of the mission of our church is to awaken people to Christ and His message and equip them to practice their faith in real life. One way we do this at Celebration is through Communities.

Church is more than a one-hour gathering on a Sunday morning. Church is also a community gathering around a table, doing life together the other six days of the week.

# BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Celebration Communities are an opportunity for our church family to live in a deep web of relationships. We eat together, pray for one another, and practice the way of Jesus in Brantford and the surrounding areas.

As you read through this week's guide, remain centered around these purposes:

Love God

Learn the ways of Jesus

Live with purpose

The following guide is meant to help direct your time together. These are best practices and *not* a rigid set of instructions to follow.

# GUIDED COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Gather as a group in a comfortable setting. Your Celebration Community leader will lead a brief time of prayer at the beginning, asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your time together. Take time to be silent before you begin. It's important to declutter our minds so that we may focus on one another and God's presence. Pray the ancient prayer: 'Come, Holy Spirit'.

Work through this week's guided questions:

(1) What brought me joy this week?

(2) Where did I notice God's presence?

(3) Was there anything God revealed to me?

(4) Our actions are the proof of our faith. On a scale of 1 to 10, how likely would someone be to identify me as a person who places their faith in Jesus? (1 being something that never crosses their mind and 10 being the most obvious thing about me).

(5) How am I becoming more like Jesus each day? What progress have I seen in my life over the past month, year, or decade?

(6) Faith leads to righteousness and righteousness leads to right living. In what ways has Jesus been challenging me to reevaluate the way I live and experience the world?

# PRACTICE THE WAY

**THE PERSONAL GROWTH EXERCISE** | We believe that the Holy Spirit often speaks through the wisdom and council of those we know.

Mark Scandrette, in his book *Practicing the Way of Jesus*, acknowledged that "trusted friends and wise counselors can help us see the blind spots that sabotage our growth and recognize the progress we can't see on our own."

It's important for us as followers of Jesus to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, read and decipher the circumstances of our lives, and receive insight from our most trusted friends, family and counselors. The Personal Growth Exercise is designed to require feedback from the trusted individuals in our lives to help us distinguish the Spirit from compulsive and negative thoughts in our head. The 10 questions listed in the exercise will concentrate on identifying our areas of strength and potential, becoming aware of areas we need to grow in, and seeking wisdom and insight from the people who we trust.

It's our choice whether we embrace our vulnerability with a sense of invitation or not. This exercise will undoubtedly open our eyes to that gap between our own perceptions and reality. However, it can also create space to grow.

**Head to [happychurch.ca](http://happychurch.ca) to access our Personal Growth Exercise or ask your Celebration Community leader for more details.** If you decide to try the exercise, we encourage you to process the responses with your Community rather than on your own.

*Practicing the Way of Jesus.* Mark Scandrette. Intervarsity Press, 2011..

# PRAY TOGETHER

Spend time together in conversation with God.

Ask yourself before praying:

**(1) What has God revealed to me this past week?**

**(2) Where is God inviting me to meet Him this upcoming week?**

Your leader will begin praying for individuals in the group. Take turns praying for each member. If everyone in your group is comfortable with laying hands on each other, feel free to do so.

If this is your first time in a Celebration Community, and you don't feel comfortable sharing something or praying out loud, feel free to be silent. Your Community is an opportunity and space where you can grow. You're welcome and safe here.

# THE WEEK AHEAD

As you live out the rest of your week, consider what has been shared during your time together.

Ask yourself:

**Who has God placed in my life to pray for and encourage?**

**What can I ask my Community to keep me accountable for next time we meet?**

As a Community, we encourage you to continue planning a significant act of service within your neighborhood or city. Take time to read through our booklet for this project, creating a concrete plan for your group to pray about and execute together by this summer.

For more information on this initiative, ask your Community leaders or head to the Resources page at [happychurch.ca](http://happychurch.ca).

