



**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY GUIDE**

for January 9, 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) When I think of marriage, what is the first image that comes to mind?

(5) Marriage exposes what's already inside us. It's two *broken* people coming together to follow God's calling on their lives. Keeping this in mind, what would it take for a marriage to flourish?

(6) The number-one justification for divorce across North America is "I deserve to be happy." How might this be fundamentally flawed?

# PRACTICE THE WAY

A healthy marriage is built around a calling. Marriage exists for friendship, but also to partner with God in the universe He has actualized.

God calls pastors, architects, baristas, real-estate agents, stay-at-home parents, and everyone in between to some corner of the world. Every human being was intentionally placed on the planet to do what God made them to do.

Whether you are dating, married or single, it's important to consider and continually recapture a sense of your calling. A sense of, "this is what I was put on earth to do."

This week, take 20 minutes to answer these questions. If you are dating, engaged or married, work through them openly and honestly with your partner. Take time both speaking and listening. If you are single, consider the first two questions and how you would communicate your answers to a partner:

- 1) What's my calling (what do I sense God has put me on earth to do)?
- 2) How will/would I partner with my spouse to accomplish their calling?
- (3) How can we leave the world a better place than how we found it?

Once you've worked through these questions, pray with your partner every morning for the next week. Ask yourself: what is God calling *us* to?

# PRAY TOGETHER

Spend time together in conversation with God.

Ask yourself before praying:

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

**(2) What is God's intention for my relationships?**

If you are considering marriage or already married, ask yourself:

**(3) What would it take for my marriage to flourish?**

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 has God spoken to me about?

How will I be obedient to what He has spoken?

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

If you missed last week, we are encouraging all Communities to craft a rule of life at the beginning of 2022. A rule of life is both a schedule and set of practices that help us create space for a deep, loving enjoyment of God's presence and others. Take time this week to review the booklet we've created for you under "Resources" at [happychurch.ca](http://happychurch.ca). There is an easy to print template available for you to begin considering what your rule of life will look like.

