

unanswered prayer

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY GUIDE

for February 13, 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) Where can I see God's goodness at work in and through painful seasons or experiences in my life?

(5) In what ways can I get better at trusting God when I don't understand Him?

(6) Looking back on past disappointments, is there an example of a time when God knew best, even though I didn't think so at the time?

PRACTICE THE WAY

Prayer isn't a place to be good; it's a place to be honest.

Do you currently identify as being in or having gone through a season of disappointment and unanswered prayer?

We invite you to write your own lament psalm this week.

For some Biblical examples, read Psalm 10, 13, 60, 79, or 80. Read through these laments slowly, acknowledging and sitting in the discomfort of what is being said here. Let God comfort you. When you're ready, begin to write:

(1) Find scrap paper or take out your journal to write.

(2) Before you put pen to paper, recognize that God already knows your heart. Commit to also writing this lament as if no one will ever see it. Don't filter your writing from a position of trying to be good. Instead, write from a position of completely transparency and honesty. This is between you and God.

(3) Record your dreams, your disappointments, your questions, your confusions, your hopes, your fears and your doubts.

(4) Pray your lament psalm to God. Take time both speaking and being silent. Don't feel scared to feel and meet God in any emotional pain you may feel.

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend time together in conversation with God.

Ask yourself before praying:

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

(2) Where is God inviting me to meet Him in my pain, this week?

(3) What story might God not be done writing in my life?

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?

Also, we're inviting our Communities to participate in Fasting and Prayer Wednesdays throughout the months of February and March.

We recommend people start simple if they've never done this before by fasting from sunrise to noon. If you practiced fasting before, feel free to try fasting from sunrise to sunset (with a late dinner) or a 24-hour fast when you're ready. Each time you feel hungry, let this prompt you towards prayer. Use this time you would normally eat to listen to and speak with God.

We will have prayer opportunities on-site each Wednesday. Please reach out via social media or email if you're interested in joining us for in-person prayer.

