



CELEBRATION COMMUNITY GUIDE

for May 15, 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) Read James 4v13-17 again. Is James saying I shouldn't plan for the future? What's the point of making long-range plans if I don't know what tomorrow will bring?

(5) What value do I get from reminding myself that my plans ultimately depend on God? Does that change what I do, or how I do it?

(6) Sometimes we live as if God does not exist. How can I change my habits this week so that I can better hear God's daily guidance and follow it? What practical next step could I take?

PRACTICE THE WAY

CHART AND PRAY | Look back and choose 2 or 3 plans you made long enough ago to have seen them develop. Chart the development of those plans in a journal or on a blank sheet of paper.

Consider the following:

Did things turn out as you wanted or expected?

How did you interact with God through this process?

Did He lead and guide you in a certain way?

Did God change the direction of your plans?

Map this process out as creatively as you can and then examine the map as closely as possible. Is there anything you can learn from it? Is there something God is trying to teach you through how these plans did or did not come to fruition?

Now, consider the future.

What plans do you currently have for your life, your family, your home, your business or your church community?

Take time this week to talk with God about these 5 areas of life. Be still and listen to what God may be revealing to you. What does *He* think?

Has God been nudging you to do something for Him that you've otherwise resisted? Are you worried about what others might think or the risks associated with a next step? Consider speaking and praying with your Community. We ask that if anyone in your group is willing to share, any information or stories are kept private within your group.

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?

(3) How is God leading me to a life where He is the epicenter of all I do?

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.

