



**becoming  
me**

**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY GUIDE**

for May 1, 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 calling as apprentices of Jesus is to put off our old self (an old identity and way of life) so we can put on our new self (a new identity and way of being human). How have I been putting off the old self to put on the new self?

(5) What are some of the challenges that have arisen when I "put off the old self"? Are there barriers I've come up against?

(6) What are the joys I have experienced by "putting on the new self"? What has God revealed to me through this process?

# PRACTICE THE WAY

One of the ways we step into spiritual maturity is by reordering our time around what we value. We're always living towards *something*. It's better to be intentional about what that is than unintentional.

This week, we invite you to try Practicing the Way's "Rule of Life" builder.

A rule of life, very simply, is an intentional, conscious plan to keep God at the center of everything we do. 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.

In his book *Crafting a Rule of Life*, Stephen A Macchia described the purpose of a rule of life this way:

*A rule of life allows us to clarify our deepest values, our most important relationships, our most authentic hopes and dreams, our most meaningful work, our highest priorities. It allows us to live with intention and purpose in the present moment.*

Type in the link below to access the builder. Once you begin, it should take roughly 6 minutes to complete. However, we encourage you to take your time. Pray about it.

Once you're done, Practicing the Way will send a PDF version of your rule of life to whichever email address you provide them. We invite you to print this out, keep it in a visible place within your home, and give your best effort at sticking to it.

The Rule of Life builder: <https://pract.typeform.com/ruleoflife>

# 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) Who is Jesus leading me to become? Have I dug my feet in or am I ready to pursue all that Jesus has for me?

(4) How am I being intentional about my spiritual formation?

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).



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