



THE GATHERING WELL

PRINCIPLES OF BUILDING COMMUNITY

A KNOWING JESUS GROWTH GUIDE



PRINCIPLES OF BUILDING COMMUNITY

- 01** COMFORTABLE WITH CONFESSION
- 02** FAITHFUL IN FELLOWSHIP
- 03** SUBMITTED TO SERVING
- 04** HOPEFUL IN HOSPITALITY
- 05** ON MISSION TO MULTIPLY



THE HEART OF *knowing Jesus*

The Gathering Well uses these three focus areas of Spiritual Formation to support our approach to the journey of faith.



BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Communication with God is our starting point. Any resources with this icon are designed to support and equip you to pray, using Scripture as our primary lens and providing questions and prompts to encourage you to talk with God consistently.



STUDY THE BIBLE

All of our resources are anchored in the truth of God's Word. This icon will indicate spaces where you will engage the Scriptures. We seek to provide educational resources and tools that will help God's Word come alive to you.



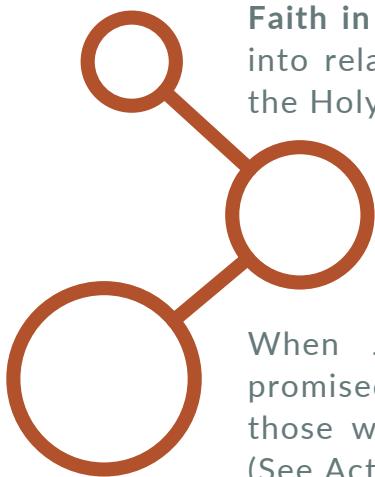
BUILD COMMUNITY

We believe that the life of faith is expressed in community, not isolation. Resources and prompts marked with this icon are geared toward reminding you that we are designed to be in relationship with God and with others.

DEFINING BIBLICAL COMMUNITY



Life in Christ : **A life in Christ also means a life in community.** God Himself is the simplest and most beautiful standard of living in community. A fundamental belief of our faith as Christians is the Trinity, three persons in One God – God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Trinity exemplifies God operating in perfect unity among Himself.



Faith in Christ is the first step in entering into relationship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. (See Romans 10:10)

Through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven and we are able to approach **God the Father** freely. (See Hebrews 4:16)

When Jesus ascended into heaven He promised that the **Holy Spirit** would come to those who believe, as Counselor & Helper. (See Acts 1:8)

There are aspects of our faith --like the Trinity-- that you can study and unpack for generations. Pray and ask God to give you peace as you seek to understand things that, in many ways, are incomprehensible. From a place of peace, consider how our understanding of life in Christ (and therefore within the Trinity) can shape our desire to live a life honoring God's design for community, not our own.

What are the ideas, thoughts, or opinions you believe about what "community" is?

What influences these ideas, thoughts, or opinions – your experience? Scripture? Reflect on your primary "community" influences and how God's Word might shape your thoughts of community moving forward.

COMFORTABLE WITH CONFESSION



Paul tells us in Romans 2:4 that it is God's kindness that leads us to repentance, or to turn away from sin. We first become comfortable bringing our mistakes, toxic temptations, and vulnerable selves to God himself. As we grow in our practice of confessing to God our challenges, mistakes, and sin in our everyday talking to Him, we can also begin that practice with other believers.



Pray a prayer of confession before the Lord today. Be encouraged that it was "while we were still sinners that Jesus died for us" (Romans 5:8). This means that we don't have to wait until we're perfect or have it figured out to come before the Lord, we just have to come.



Read 1 John 1:5-10. What does this passage reveal to us about the life God wants for us regarding sin and confession?



Pastor Tyler Staton says that "sin is our attempt to meet our needs by our own resources [in our own strength, on our own terms]". We want to be people who believe in Jesus and desire to be completely known by Him and others through the practice of confessing sins.



Biblical community is formed through vulnerability and acceptance, rooted in grace.



LET'S REFLECT

Think about why confession is so important to the life that God desires for us. Read the following passages and consider: **what should our posture be towards confession? What is God's purpose for confession?**

Posture: Hebrews 10:10-13

Purpose:

FAITHFUL IN FELLOWSHIP



To be faithful is to remain loyal and steadfast. We would challenge you to remember the example of God's faithfulness to us. Even when we are not loyal, He is. Even when we are not steadfast, He is. **That** is the reminder to us as we seek to be faithful in fellowship with fellow believers. Yes, we seek to be wise and discerning to guard our hearts, but we do so remembering that it is **Christ in others that we seek to trust**, when building and growing in a deep relationship.



Ask the Lord to show you today if you have been faithful in fellowship. Ask Him to reveal places in your heart that you have not trusted Him completely when it comes to how you pursue intentional time and relationships with other believers. Write down however you feel the Holy Spirit prompting you to practice faithful fellowship.



Read 1 John 2:7-11. What does this passage reveal about the life God wants for us regarding fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ?



We want to be people who believe in Jesus and desire to live alongside one another in the everyday pursuit of one another. Faithful fellowship is the faithful pursuit of and availability to one another to share time, space, and life together.



DIG DEEPER

Consider how Jesus is our first example of “faithful in fellowship”. Read Romans 8:31-39 and answer the questions below.

What example of fellowship and love do we see in these verses?

How does this influence your desire to be faithful in fellowship with fellow believers?

Using these verses as an example, what does it look like to be faithful in fellowship?

SUBMITTED TO SERVING



1 John 3:16 says that Jesus Christ is the example and standard of love; that it was His act of laying down His life for us that teaches us about love in its best and right form. This is the example we have for our own lives and why this passage invites us to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters in Christ. In a world that is rushed and hurried, we can often feel short of time or ability to serve others. **God isn't inviting us to lay down our physical lives and die for others, Jesus already did that!** He is inviting us to lay down our comforts and conveniences in an effort to love others with more than just our words, but with our deeds as well.



Ask the Lord to show you today if you have been submitted to serving. Ask Him to reveal places in your heart that you have not trusted Him completely when it comes to asking for help or helping others. Pray and ask Him to show you what step you need to take to move towards others in serving or being served.



Read 1 John 3:11-18. What does this passage reveal to us about the life God wants for us regarding caring for and serving those around us?



We want to be people who believe in Jesus and desire to pursue opportunities to serve others and humble ourselves to allow others to serve us. Being submitted to serving is formed through a sacrificial willingness to do and provide for others in their most basic and fundamental needs.

DIG DEEPER

Read Philippians 2:1-11. Use the study steps below to look at what Paul says about serving one another.

Observe the text by circling, highlighting, and/or underlining what you see in the passage. You might identify such things as: instructions, repeated words or phrases, references to time, people, or places, connections ("therefore", "and", "thus", etc.). Write down your key observations below.

What do these observations help you see or understand about what God is saying in His Word?

What does this reveal about God and the life that He desires for you, particularly as it relates to serving and loving those around you?

HOPEFUL IN HOSPITALITY



We often think hospitality is about hosting an experience or creating a “hotel worthy” atmosphere. But God’s word tells us that **hospitality is for the stranger**. When we are hopeful in hospitality, we are driven by the hope we have in Christ to welcome those who are different from us in a way that makes them feel comfortable and safe. When we are hopeful in hospitality, we are driven by the hope we have in Christ that moves towards others and shows the love of Jesus through actions. **It tells those outside of our circle that they have a seat at our table, no matter what.** Hopeful hospitality is a willing heart that loves others the way that Christ loves us.



Ask the Lord to show you today how you have been hopeful in hospitality. Ask Him to reveal ways that you have been unwilling to be available to strangers. Ask for His wisdom on steps you can take to grow in the practice of hospitality with others.



Read Hebrews 13:1-3. What does this passage reveal to us about the life God wants for us regarding caring for strangers?



We want to be people who are willing to open our homes and hearts to those who are different from us. It can feel scary to be vulnerable to others, but there are no restrictions on how God calls us to show hospitality. We must be willing to trust Him in whatever ways he prompts us to care for others, including those that are strangers to us.



DIG DEEPER

Read Luke 10:37. Use the study steps below to look at what Jesus says about loving others.

Observe the text by circling, highlighting, and/or underlining what you see in the passage. You might identify such things as: instructions, repeated words or phrases, references to time, people, or places, connections ("therefore", "and", "thus", etc.). Write down your key observations below.

What do these observations help you see or understand about what God is saying in His Word?

What does this reveal about God and the life that He desires for you, particularly as it relates to showing hospitality?

ON MISSION TO MULTIPLY



On mission to multiply does not mean signing up to leave your job, your city, or even the country. If God gives you the opportunity to be on mission in a radical way, we can't wait to cheer you on and see God provide! But often, God gives us the opportunity to be on mission in the most ordinary ways. Being on mission to multiply is about letting God use you to create spaces where people have the opportunity to connect more deeply with God and with other believers. It's about having an open circle that is constantly welcoming people in and telling them they have a place to belong. This multiplication mindset allows us to seek opportunities to invite those around us to take next steps towards Jesus.



Ask the Lord to show you today if you have been on mission to multiply. Ask Him to reveal places where you have been closed off or unwilling to be used by Him to love, encourage or make disciples of those around you. Ask Him to help you have a multiplication mindset.



Read Matthew 28: 19 - 20. What does this passage reveal to us about the life God wants for us regarding a multiplication mindset?



We want to be people who create outposts of love wherever we go. Our lives become a way that God teaches others about who He is and His story of rescue, restoration, and redemption for them.

DIG DEEPER



Throughout the book of Acts, we see how the disciples practiced a multiplication mindset. Look at the verses below, and for each one, ask yourself- how did each disciple's willingness and eagerness to share the gospel help connect people to God and to the larger body of believers?

Acts 2:37-41

Acts 4:8-13

Acts 8:4-13



HE SEES ME HERE

Still thinking? Still reflecting? Have questions? Here you go: use this page as you wish for your own prayers and musings.



Become a member
(psst... its free)

Copyright © 2022
The Gathering Well

Publication and Distribution for The Gathering Well
All rights reserved.

Contributing authors: Jazmin Caton and Chelsea Miller

Printing permissions:

INDIVIDUAL USE - no more than five copies shall be printed and distributed.

ORGANIZATIONAL USE - no more than the number of copies outlined in the agreement between the organization and TGW.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of The Gathering Well, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



THE GATHERING WELL

Helping Everyday People Become Everyday
Leaders Who Know, Follow and Grow with Jesus.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

connect@thegatheringwell.org

www.thegatheringwell.org