



Part 2: Community Matters

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## Roadblocks to Community

We get too busy or too distracted to pursue spiritual community.

**In the Church, we is far stronger than me.  
Community really matters.**

## What does the word “community” really encompass?

1. Proximity—geography matters
2. Frequency
3. Spontaneity
4. Availability
5. Common Meals

## How do we build community?

### 1. Love God

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your strength; this is the first and most important commandment. And the second is just like it, love your neighbor as yourself.” – Matthew 22:37-39*

### 2. Love each other

*Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. – 1 John 4:7:8*

### 3. Love others to God

*Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. – 1 John 4:11-12*

## The Great Commission

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” – Matthew 28:18*

## Our Mission

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.

We want our community here to be a Christian community.

## People are creating communities based on:

1. Interests
2. Life Stages
3. Neighborhoods

## Next Steps

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- **Take home a copy of CTK Life.** This flyer describes a bunch of ways to engage in community around CTK. Pick up the current issue today in the Commons and watch for the summer edition coming the weekend of June 9th & 10th.
- **Get connected digitally.** Download the CTK Church App for mobile devices or visit [ctkbellingham.com/communitylife](http://ctkbellingham.com/communitylife). In either place, click on "Find A Group" to start exploring and connecting with any CTK community.
- After the service, **visit Community Life booth** in the Commons. We have volunteers available to give you more info and help get you connected.
- **Start a community!** This is not something you have to do alone. We'll help you put a team together to start a new community in your neighborhood, around your interests, or for others in your life stage.

## Small Group Questions

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- 1) What is the best community you've ever been part of? (College, sports team, neighborhood, church group, etc.) What made that community so special?
- 2) Looking back, what element helped you build community the most: proximity, frequency, spontaneity, availability or sharing meals? Explain.
- 3) Unfortunately, Christian community is often not "Christian." If you've ever had an experience like that, tell us about it. What was missing?
- 4) Read 1 John 4:7-21. Discuss it. What part of this scripture pops out to you? What implication does this have for your small group?
- 5) Grant taught us last week from Ephesians 2 that everyone is a minister. This week we learn from John that love is our greatest tool in advancing life together. With these two principles in mind, what has God called you to do?
- 6) Pray: Pray that you would love. Pray that your group would love each other deeply. Pray that you would love those who are not yet Christians.