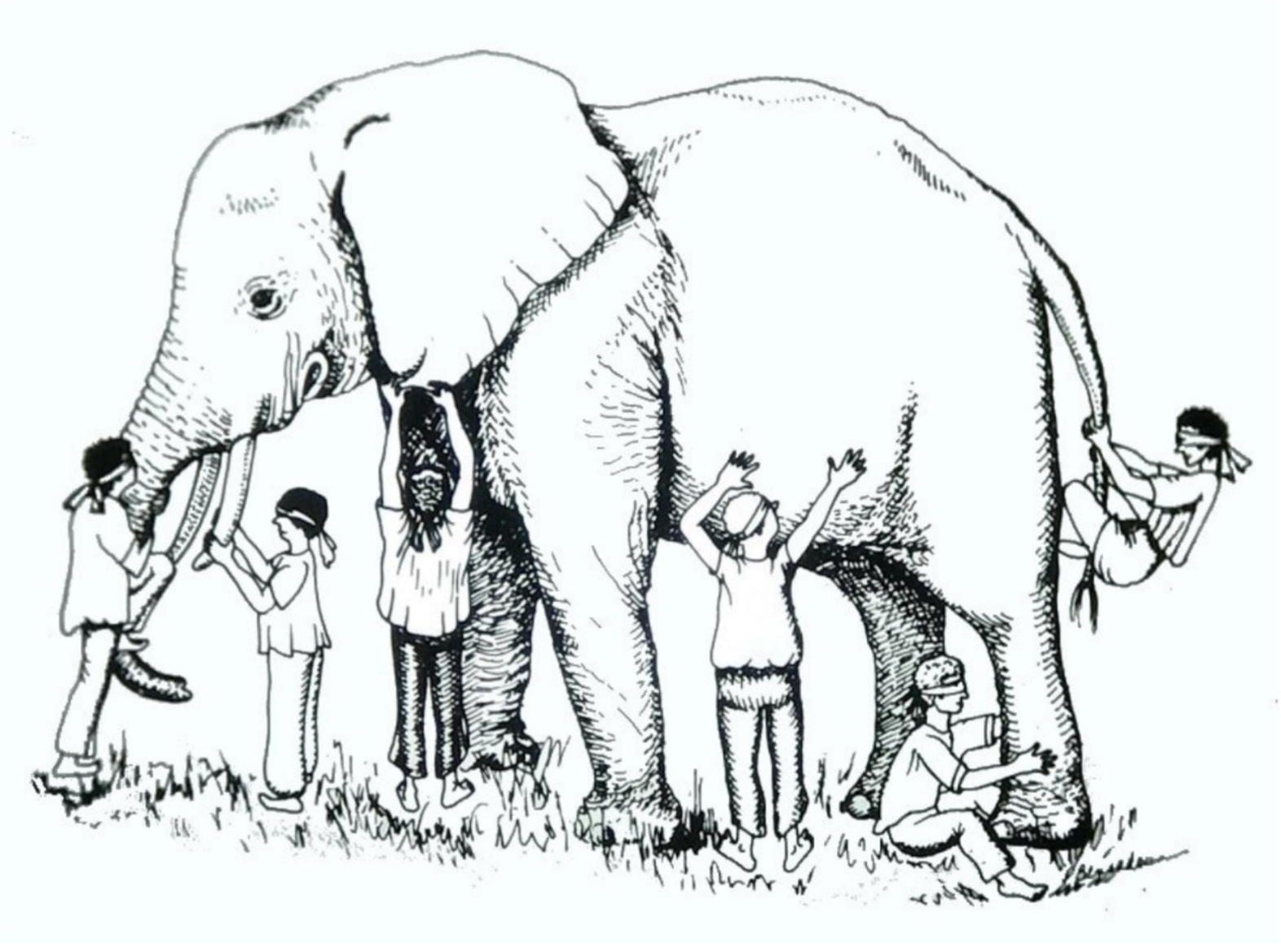
Foundations



What is community?

When community was good

1. What made you feel like you belonged?
2. What did people in that community actually do?
3. How did you know that you mattered?
4. What happened when someone struggled?
5. What made you want to keep showing up?

THEMES OF "GOOD" COMMUNITY

- GENUINE INTERACTION
- VALUED / SEEN
- COMMON PURPOSE
- SUPPORT - RECIPROCITY + COMPREHENSIVE
- SHARED FUN
- COMMITMENT
- RESPECT
- AUTHENTICITY
- SHARED SUFFERING
- BEING WANTED

When community didn’t work

1. What was missing?
2. What prevented deeper relationships?
3. What behaviors damaged trust?
4. What made people feel like insiders or outsiders?
5. What eventually caused people to disengage?

THEMES OF "BAD" :(COMMUNITY

- CLIQUES
- LACK OF TRUST (A)
- LACK OF LEADERSHIP ⇒ WANDERING BOUNDARIES! GOSSIP!
- LACK OF RESPECT
- LACK OF VULNERABILITY / AUTH.
- " " INVESTMENT / SACRIFICE
- " " PROGRESS
- UNTOLD EXPECTATIONS ⇒ UNMET EXP.
- JUDGEMENT - MADE TO FEEL OUTSIDE

- BULLYING

- LITTLE SHARED EXPERIENCE · MINIMIZING EXP.
- TOO MUCH RELIANCE ON LEADERS
- LACK OF DEPTH - SURFACE LEVEL
- MONOPOLIZED ATTN.
- LACK OF SAFETY.

What qualities are present are present when a group of Christians is actually sharing biblical community?

Acts 2:42-47 - [42] And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. [44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Five Markers of Biblical Community

KNOW

We know and are known

SHARE

We participate in each other’s lives

STAY

We practice steadfast love



GROW

We help one another become like Jesus

GO

We share a life and a mission

Biblical community doesn’t necessarily mean that _____.

At Anthem, community is _____.

WORKING DEFINITION

Biblical community is a Christ-centered people who know and are known, share life with one another, remain faithfully present through joy and difficulty, help one another become like Jesus, and live together for the sake of God's mission.

What's missing?

Where have I exprienced this?

1. Which of the five marks have I experienced most strongly in Christian community? (KNOW — SHARE — STAY — GROW — GO)
2. Which have I experienced least?
3. Which one do I most desire in my relationships at Anthem?
4. What past experience—positive or negative—most shapes what I expect from Christian community today?

If this is what community is, how do we actually build a life where this can happen?