

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# CommUNITY



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
2022

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## Introduction to the series: *CommUNITY*

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!”  
Psalm 133:1 (ESV)

Welcome to this series. God has created us for relationships, and as the psalmist reminds us, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters in Christ *dwell in UNITY*. This series will remind us that Calvary is a CommUNITY that demonstrates, declares, and disciples those around us who are living without Jesus. When they come to know Jesus, not only will they spend eternity with Jesus, but they will also be part of the family – the CommUNITY.

This isn't just a Sunday thing, but rather each of us must be intentional about it daily. And as we are in this together, each of us is essential if we are to truly be a life-giving CommUNITY. I trust that this series will challenge us all to learn how to better *dwell in unity*, in Christ.

### Introduction To The 4G Guide

#### *GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE*

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your daily life. Understanding and application allows you to then take what God is teaching and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the *Christian Standard Bible* (CSB Text Edition: 2020).



## USING THE 4G GUIDE

Each week is divided into four sections:



### Gear Up

Each week starts with the Gear Up section. This section introduces the weekly topic and expounds on Scripture. Also provided are some practical steps to putting the subject matter into practice.



### God Time

Personal time with God is vital to the Christian walk. Five daily devotionals are provided for each week's topic. This is your one-on-one time in a guided devotional format. At the conclusion, we encourage you to pray, seeking direction for the day and the rest of the week.



### Group Time

We learn from one another! In small groups we meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. This booklet contains lesson outlines for discipleship discussion. For more information on available groups and forming a group, go to our Groups webpage:

[cbcfamily.net/groups](http://cbcfamily.net/groups).



### Family Group Time

Family worship glorifies God. Each week we have simple devotionals just for Families. Plan ahead though, as many of these lessons include fun experiments or video shorts to discuss.



## Gear Up: We Are in This Together

God saves individuals who place their faith in Him. Yes, salvation happens on an individual basis. But once we are saved, God draws us into a community of other Believers called the family of God.

**We need community.** God created us this way. We were not made to live life completely alone! We were made to give and receive love and care. Why? Because we are made in God’s image.

**In Genesis 1:26 (NLT), God says:**

*So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

### God Is Community

**Before God ever created anything, He was not alone.** God is community! This is very important: the very nature of God is a picture of community.

**The Bible explains that God exists eternally and simultaneously as Father, Son, and Spirit.** He is one God who exists in three *equal yet distinct* persons. Some people explain this by saying that God is Triune (or that He is the Trinity).

**Paul mentions the three persons of God** when he prays for the Corinthian church in 2 Corinthians 13:14 (ESV):

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

### Created for Community

**Because we were created in God’s image,** we are created for community. Adam had community with God, but God saw that he

needed someone like him to experience life with. God said, *“It is not good that man should be alone.”* (Genesis 2:18) Thus God made Eve. This first marriage shows that we have a deep need for community.

**Tragically, Adam and Eve chose to sin** and disobey God by eating the fruit God had told them not to eat. As a result, sin entered the world and damaged their relationship with God and each other. It also corrupted their very nature; Adam and Eve took on a sin-nature and passed that down to all humanity. This introduced loneliness and broken relationships to the entire world.

### Jesus Restores Community

**But the story doesn’t end there!** Jesus came into the world to save and redeem sinners, restoring community to what it was designed to be. When a person places faith in how Jesus is and what He has done, He sends the Holy Spirit to live in that person’s heart. That result changes everything!

**The early church shows us that the Holy Spirit is at work** in Christian community. Acts 2:42-47 tells us that Believers are to worship, do life, and care for one another all in the context of community. We all long for this; the church is the answer to loneliness and isolation!

### Step Into Community

**It is easy to withdraw or feel alone.** Yet, God has called us to take an active role in His family. We must make the intentional choice to step into community by gathering regularly with other Believers and getting involved in groups and service. This shows obedience to God’s design for us and is important to our relationship with Him. Yes, the benefits are good— for us *and* others. We are in this together!



God Time Day 1: God Is Community



Read 2 Corinthians 13:14  
*14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*



Paul writes this blessing to the church. In it, he mentions God in three persons. List them by finishing each:

“The grace of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_”

“The love of \_\_\_\_\_”

“The fellowship of the \_\_\_\_\_”

There is a very “churchy” term used to describe this: The Trinity. God is three in one, and though each aspect of God is individual, they are all connected and exist within perfect unity with each other. God’s very nature is communal. Since we have been created in the Image of God, that means that our nature is also communal.



Reflect on how your communities (church, Bible study, etc.) shaped your understanding of, and relationship with, God.

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God Time Day 2: Created for Community



Read Genesis 2:18  
*18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper corresponding to him.”*

In the story of Adam and Eve, we see the importance of relationships. God created Eve because Adam was alone and needed community. In doing so, God created another “trinity” between Adam, Eve, and God, living in community with each other. In other words, the Image of God became fully manifest through the formation of this first community.



Recall a time when you were struggling and others (i.e., your community) helped you. Write down their names.

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Take some time to give thanks to God for your community.

God Time Day 3: Faith in Community



Read Mark 1:16-20  
*16 As he passed alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew, Simon’s brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17 “Follow me,” Jesus told them, “and I will make you fish for people.” 18 Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat putting their nets in order. 20 Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.*



What do you find similar about verses 18 and 20?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

As Jesus began His ministry, one of the first things He did was call others to join Him. He formed a community. This is extremely important because Jesus’ ministry was all about the restoration of community.

For average people like Simon, Andrew, James, and John, practicing faith in community meant obeying the mandates of the priests – and assuming that what the priests told them was God’s will. Jesus turned this all upside down. Jesus lived among the disciples, giving them this model of faith in community as it was intended to be: people living closely connected to God and God living amongst His people – *in relationship*. Jesus was the manifestation of this relationship, God living among His creation as a person.

When we think about practicing our faith, we sometimes think of it as work, a responsibility, or a task that must be completed – like the mandates of the priests. But faith in community is not a task. It’s an invitation to join God, to participate alongside Him in His work with others – restoring relationship with a lost world.



Have you treated God’s call upon your life as a set of rules or a checklist to be completed? Discuss with a close friend how you could view God’s call more as a relationship.

God Time Day 4: Life and Caring in Community



Read Acts 2:42-47

*<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

Underline the activities the earliest church community did to grow spiritually together.



Circle the activities the earliest church community did to serve one another and others.

When Jesus called the first disciples, He taught them, trained them for ministry, and walked life-on-life with them. Jesus was laying the foundation of disciple-making for the first church. In the Acts verses above, we see those same disciples following the example set by Jesus. They formed communities, invited people to join those communities, and spent time teaching and growing spiritually within those communities. Jesus came to restore community, and we see His disciple-making ministry continue through the church.

God saves us as individuals – each person makes their own decision to have a relationship with God. But just like with marriage, saying “I do” also means becoming part of a bigger family. Saying “I do” to God also means becoming part of God’s community.



Memorize 1 John 4:11-12.

*<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. If we love one another, God remains in us and his love is made complete in us.*

How will you live out this verse today?

God Time Day 5: Step Into Community



Read Hebrews 10:24-25

*<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.*

Underline what God calls the members of His community to do in the above passage.



Rewrite this verse in your own words.

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God calls His people to be in community with one another, and in doing so we draw closer to Him. Unfortunately, the idea of community is often watered-down to just “going to church.” But merely attending church does not mean you are a part of a community. It’s easy to attend services and never become more than a nameless face in the crowd. Some might even think they can connect better to God without the distraction of becoming part of a community. But as we have been learning, connecting to God’s community is an essential part of connecting with God.



As we close this week, here are three steps you can take towards forming community.

1. Take time to prepare yourself for Sunday morning. Pray, asking God to reveal His will.
2. During the Gathering Time, introduce yourself to someone new. Say something like, “Hi, we’ve never met. My name is...” Make small talk and if possible, finish with, “How can I be praying for you?” Write down their name and request.
3. Pray for them during the week and the next time you see them, invite them to your 4G Group.

**Group Time**

◀◀ LOOK BACK:



1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

3. Starting a new series.



What do you hope to gain from this series?



**Look Up:** People are by nature social beings. That is because we are created in the image of God, created for relationships, created for community. Unfortunately, in one way or another we often try

to dictate the terms of these relationships rather than living in the constructs of God’s will. And this leads to dysfunction, brokenness, and loneliness. We try to get out of this brokenness on our own, but whatever we try, it’s never enough.

But Jesus. Jesus showed us a way to restore our relationship and longing for community through forgiveness and accepting Him as our LORD, our leader. When we do this, we become part of a family, we find life in community, and we desire to share this with others.

**Discussion**

Read Acts 2:42-47. Underline what they did. Circle what resulted.

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



**LOOK FORWARD: Application**

*Point:* We all long to be part of a community. The church answers that longing.

**Step Into Community**

Make Sunday morning Gathering Time a priority. Prepare yourself by asking these questions before next Sunday:

- Ask God, “What are you going to show me this coming Sunday morning?” Write His response(s):

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- Ask yourself, “Why am I going to Calvary Sunday morning?” Record your response(s):

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- Who will you meet Sunday morning and how can you be praying for them? (Hint: you may need to ask them.)

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Set aside some specific time to spend in prayer, preparing for the next Sunday’s Gathering Time.

**Warning:** The devil will not like this and will attack many of you spiritually and potentially physically. But keep in mind 1 Corinthians 10:13 and be in prayer for one another and our Calvary Family. Pray for protection, clear minds, and pure hearts.



## Family Group Time

Main Idea:

We Are All Created For Community



**Key Verse: Genesis 12:1-4**

*<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram: Go from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you. <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran.*



**Ask:**

What does community mean to you? The Webster's dictionary defines community as a group of people who live in the same area (such as a city, town, or neighborhood) or a group of people who have the same interests, religion, race, etc. God has made each one of us to be a part of a community together. Watch this short video and talk afterwards about how God has created us for community with one another.



**Watch: Week 1 Video**



**Talk About It:**

Re-read Genesis 12:1-4. When God called Abram, he was told to leave his country, his people, and his extended family for a place that was unknown to him. Only God knew where Abram and his family would go to find community. Where are the places we go to find community?

Calvary is a great place for us to find community with one another. God has designed each of us to thrive when we do life together. As followers of Christ, we are part of God's family and are bound together in one common purpose. We are to make Christ known to the world. But if we are not plugged into the community, can we really be a part of the community?

The answer to this question is no.

Pledge as a family that you are going to be more plugged-in to a local church community in addition to attending the Sunday gatherings. Also consider joining a small group or serving in a ministry area.





## Gear Up: You Are Essential

How do you break a big bundle of sticks? You take the bundle apart and break them one at a time. This simple riddle reminds us of the universal principle that we are stronger together.

### We Are Stronger Together

We see this principle demonstrated in things like the animal kingdom (think of herds), armies who protect, and sports teams. Interestingly, this is not a concept that we have discovered for ourselves, but something we have observed. Being stronger together is one of God's truths.

#### Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 says,

<sup>9</sup>Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. <sup>10</sup>For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up. <sup>11</sup>Also, if two lie down together, they can keep warm; but how can one person alone keep warm? <sup>12</sup>And if someone overpowers one person, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

This passage teaches that when we are together, there is a greater reward. For example, the output of two people who work together is greater than the output of two people who work separately. We can also help pick up one another, do what the other can't, encourage, and protect each other. Being together makes us strong. Because of this...

### You Need Others and Others Need You

Today's world values self-sufficiency. *But*, self-sufficiency doesn't make you strong; it makes you vulnerable. It makes you vulnerable to your own weaknesses and also to attacks. God gave us something to help: each other!

God made the church into what He calls the Body of Christ. We are all interconnected and interdependent.

#### 1 Corinthians 12:14-18 says,

<sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body is not one part but many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, "Because I'm not a hand, I don't belong to the body," it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, "Because I'm not an eye, I don't belong to the body," it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God has arranged each one of the parts in the body just as he wanted.

Community is worth it! Sure, community can be scary and painful because we have to be open and vulnerable, but through it, we get to do what God has designed us to do. You need the other parts of the Body of Christ, and the other parts need you.

### Find Your "Cord"

**What's a cord?** It's a group of people who serve and do life together—people who form a bond like the one described in the Ecclesiastes passage. Perhaps you have a ministry team you serve with. Or maybe your cord is a small group you study God's Word with. Or maybe it's a few people who *really* know you. Hopefully, it's all of those. (If you don't have a few people who know you on that level, start with a ministry and then a group.)

Remember: a threefold cord is not easily broken! We are stronger when we are together. And *you* are an essential part of "we."

God Time Day 1: Stronger Together



There’s a lot of talk these days about “essential workers.” This week we look at the “essential” role we each have in community.



Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12  
*9Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts. 10For if either falls, his companion can lift him up; but pity the one who falls without another to lift him up. 11Also, if two lie down together, they can keep warm; but how can one person alone keep warm? 12And if someone overpowers one person, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not easily broken.*



Circle what a person can do *for* or *with* another.

Underline what happens to someone without a companion to help him.



When we isolate ourselves it makes us weak, and we miss out. If you tend to isolate yourself, ask God to help you overcome this. If you have a testimony about this, share it with someone today.

God Time Day 2: Rewards, Help, and Protection



Reread yesterday’s Scripture passage.

There are rewards to living in community (see verse 9). When people work together, more can be accomplished. How have you seen this happen? (E.g., getting a project done, First Saturday Serve, etc.)

We also have the promise of help and protection in community (see verses 10 and 11). How have you seen these two principles in action? (E.g., you’ve been able to help a friend, protect a child, etc.)



Ask God to show you a new opportunity to be a helpful companion to someone today.

Then, make sure you obey Him. And maybe ask someone to join you.

God Time Day 3: You Need Others



Sometimes, people don’t want to get involved with others because sharing our needs can be embarrassing. But the reality is, we need each other. Being vulnerable is worth it.



Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-18  
*14So the body is not one part but many. 15If the foot should say, "Because I'm not a hand, I don't belong to the body," in spite of this it still belongs to the body. 16And if the ear should say, "Because I'm not an eye, I don't belong to the body," in spite of this it still belongs to the body. 17If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18But now God has placed the parts, each one of them, in the body just as He wanted.*

In the passage above, Paul writes to the Corinthian church and uses the analogy of a body to represent the Christian church. Christians in community are “the body of Christ.”

Put a box around verse 14, above, and circle the word “part.”

Together, we are one body, but we are not all one body part. We are a collection of different parts with different functions. (Read verses 15 and 16 again with this in mind.)

Think of several different people that the church needs, like children’s volunteers, greeters, or small group leaders. Plug those people into verse 17 and read it again. (Like this: “If the whole body were children’s workers, where would the greeters be?”)

Who placed the parts? (Verse 18) \_\_\_\_\_

God created us to need others and work together.



Write down three things this passage challenges you to do.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to do them.



Share your plan with others and ask them to help you.

God Time Day 4: Others Need You



Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7  
*<sup>4</sup>Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>There are different ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>And there are different activities, but the same God is active in everyone and everything. <sup>7</sup>A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person to produce what is beneficial.*

The Holy Spirit gives Believers spiritual gifts. These gifts are things that involve service to God and the body of Christ, like prayer, helping, encouraging, teaching, administration, and so on.

In the passage above, circle what there is “the same” of. (Hint: it happens three times, remember the Trinity?)



Look carefully at verse 7. What is given to each person? Why?

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“A manifestation of the Spirit” means that whatever gifts God gives us is a gift that shows one another and the world that *He is present in and with us.*

Whatever gifting we receive is important! It is to be used for the benefit of the church body. This means that others need you. And they need you to use what God has given you.

When we all work together, using our individual gifts, we are a living example of the passage we talked about on Days 1 and 2 (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).



Complete the *Know Your Strengths* assessments by using the QR or grab a *Remarkably and Wonderfully Made* booklet at your campus foyer.



What if only a few people in the church were obedient to use their spiritual gifts? How tired would those few become? How does this encourage you to use your gifts?

Remember, whether God asks you to do something “big” or “small,” your obedience is what brings a benefit to others.

God Time Day 5: Find Your Cord



Read John 17:20-23  
*<sup>17</sup>I [Jesus] pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their [the disciples’] word. <sup>24</sup>May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. <sup>23</sup>I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.*

Underline “for those who believe in me through their word.”

Above it, write *Calvary Baptist Church*. (Jesus prayed here for all Believers, in all time, everywhere; our CBC family included.)



How would you sum up Jesus’ prayer?

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Why does He say He prayed it?

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To get God’s work done and find “unity” in commUNITY, join a **ministry team** to serve with. To help find a ministry, complete the *I’m Interested In Serving* Form.



To connect, grow, and encourage others, it helps to be part of a **Group**. Find out about Groups at [CBCFamily.net/groups](http://CBCFamily.net/groups).

It’s also important that you **find a few** who really know you (your *cord of three strands* from Days 1 and 2). Be intentional about making deep connections with people you can rely on, help, and share life with. Who are your few?

- Women: Check out **Agape Groups** at [cbcfamily.net/women](http://cbcfamily.net/women).
- Men: Check out **Fireteams** at [cbcfamily.net/men](http://cbcfamily.net/men).

WEEK 2 – YOU ARE ESSENTIAL

Group Time

LOOK BACK:



1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

3. **Point:** We all long to be part of a community. The church answers that longing.

Share with your group how you prepared for our Gathering Time this past week and this morning. What challenges did you encounter? How did it affect your Gathering Time?

LOOK UP:

**Question:** We’ve all heard the saying, “Many hands make light work.” When is this true and when can it be false?

**Recap:** The phrase “we are stronger together” has often been used as a cry for unity towards a common goal. But it’s much more than that. Working together often leads to greater work output than an individual can produce – it becomes exponential. When we work in unity, it allows us to walk side-by-side with others, filling gaps, and encouraging one another. And it can protect us physically and spiritually, especially when we trust those we are working with.

The point is, each of us needs and is needed in community. God made us, and the Bible describes us as a body. And just like a body, each of us a role to play. Finding and playing those roles as a body, though, can be scary and painful because we need to be vulnerable, and we need to build trust.

LOOK IN: Discussion

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Give examples of this in your own life.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-18. Give examples of this in your work, recreational, and or church/ministry life. When and why did it or didn’t it work out so well?

- How would you introduce these concepts to someone new to Calvary? How would you direct them to be a part of the body?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

**Point:** A thumb without the rest of the fingers is only good for hitchhiking and saying, “Good job.”

Find Your Cord – You Need It And We Need You

Ministry:

- If you are not already involved in a specific ministry and not sure where to start, grab a *Remarkably and Wondrously Made* booklet in your campus foyer or visit [cbcfamily.net/Go2](http://cbcfamily.net/Go2) and click “Know Your Strengths.”
- If you are not already involved in a specific ministry but have an idea of where to start, please complete an *I’m Interested In Serving* card – available in the campus foyer or use this QR.
- If you are involved in ministry, answer this question: “How is your ministry activity advancing God’s kingdom?” If you are not sure, discuss this with your ministry leader.



A Few That Know You:

Who are those two or three, same-gender, like-minded individuals with whom you can be transparent and real?

Do you meet with them regularly to intentionally discuss faith and spiritual matters? If not, covenant with two or three others today.

Men: Check out **Fireteams** at: [CBCFamily.net/men](http://CBCFamily.net/men).

Women: Check out **Agape Groups** at: [CBCFamily.net/women](http://CBCFamily.net/women)

If you don’t have a small team, join a ministry – meet some people!



## Family Group Time

Main Idea:

**We Are Stronger Together**



**Key Verse: Romans 12:4-5**

*<sup>4</sup> Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup> in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.*

**Set it Up:**



Is there a sport that you love to play? Does this sport take more than one person per team to play? What would happen if you tried to play the sport you chose all by yourself? It would be a disaster. That is why it is called a team sport. It takes more than just one person to play it. The same is true for Christians in the church. We were not made to do life by ourselves. Check out this video that will explain this a little bit better.



**Watch: Week 2 Video**



**Talk About it:**

Why do we like to do things by ourselves? Did God create us to go through life doing everything by ourselves? Re-read the key verse at the top of the page.

All of us have a different part to play in the church. What are the different ways people serve at Calvary? What would happen if one person tried to teach all the classes each week?

This is why it is so important for all of us to find where God wants us to serve and use the gifts He has given us.



**Work It Out:**

Gather a box and gift-wrapping supplies (newspaper works well for gift wrapping). Ask one of the kids to wrap a gift...using only one hand (the other must stay behind the back).

After he or she struggles for a little while, ask for a volunteer to help. (They should use one hand also, making a total of two hands wrapping the gift.)

Why was it easier to wrap the gift with someone helping? (He could hold the box; he could tear off the tape; etc.)

We all need others to help us, especially when things are hard.

How can others help us when we are having a hard time? (E.g., they can listen; they can pray for us; they can say encouraging words; they can be with us; etc.)

Paul and Timothy worked together to do God's work. Paul spent time with Timothy; he wrote encouraging words to Timothy; he prayed for Timothy. Having good friends can help us do God's work. We are stronger together than we are by ourselves.



## Gear Up: A Life-Giving Family

**“Busy!”** That’s one of the top answers people give when they are asked, “How are you?” We almost wear it like a badge of honor. Perhaps we think that busyness means success, or perhaps we are just trying to survive in this hectic world.

**Many people are so busy doing “all the things”** yet they feel lonely, depressed, anxious, or like life has no meaning. Believers don’t have to feel this way! We are saved into the family of God, and it is a life-giving family that accomplishes something very important.

### A People Living for a Purpose

**Philippians 1:27** says,

*Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel...*

**This passage shows us that as Believers, we are citizens of heaven together.** This means that this world is not our home. Since that’s the case, we shouldn’t let it consume us! We must remember not to let this world control our values, our calendar, or our activities.

**We are also contending for the faith in community.** Together, we work against a common enemy for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our purpose is to live for that gospel and share it with others!

### Our Purpose Requires Unity

**In order to share the gospel and advance God’s kingdom,** we must work together. This type of unity requires *humility*.

**Paul tells us in Philippians 2:3-8 (ESV),**

*<sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

*<sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

**We can look to Jesus as our example.** He was willing to give up everything so that we can spend eternity in heaven. He humbly put our need for salvation above His life. We must care for others the way that Jesus cares for us, lowering ourselves to lift them up.

### A Light in a Dark World

**We live in a twisted, messed up world.** It is greedy, selfish, and evil. But the Book of Philippians tells us that we “*shine like lights*” in the midst of a “*crooked and twisted generation.*” (Philippians 2:14-16) Our purpose is to show the world that there is a better way. We shine light in a dark world, pointing others to Jesus and the salvation He offers.

### Three Questions

**Here are three questions to consider:**

1. What is my part, serving in the Kingdom?
2. Am I using my gifts to lift others up?
3. What group do I give to and receive from?

These questions help us evaluate how we are living out our purpose—that is, how we are participating in a life-giving family that works together to build God’s kingdom. We must never be too busy to contend for the faith together!



God Time Day 1: Living For A Purpose



Read Philippians 1:27

*Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or am absent, I will hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, in one accord, contending together for the faith of the gospel.*



Circle both times the word “gospel” occurs.

Underline what we are to “live your life worthy of.”

The *gospel* of Jesus Christ is the good news of His coming to provide forgiveness of sins for all who will believe.

When we live a life “*worthy of the gospel of Christ,*” it means that we don’t waste our time and energy on things that would pull us away from sharing the gospel with, and seeing the salvation of, as many people as possible.

When we work (*contending*) together and focus on the gospel, “*standing firm in one spirit, in one accord,*” we demonstrate God’s love by our unity.

At the end of the verse, draw a box around what all Christians are to do together.

But it is easy to fall into the trap of busyness. The enemy works hard to distract and confuse us regarding what is most important. Because it is easier, we often measure success based on activity rather than on effectiveness. Even good activities end up stealing away our time and energy from what is best.



Look carefully at your commitments. Are there any that are not gospel-focused?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there one you could drop to devote more time and energy to an activity that would help others hear the gospel?

Is there a ministry you are involved in that keeps you busy but could do a better job of sharing the gospel?

Day 2 – Our Purpose Requires Unity; Look To Jesus



Read Philippians 2:5-8

<sup>5</sup> *Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. <sup>7</sup> Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.*



Describe Christ’s attitude in your own words:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

God Time Day 3: Our Purpose Requires Unity; Live In Humility



Reread yesterday’s passage.

Now read the verses leading up to this in Philippians 2:3-4 <sup>3</sup> *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.*



Circle the attitude(s) opposite of humility in these verses.

Underline how these verses define humility.

Following Jesus means following Jesus’ example; we lower ourselves to lift up others.



How will you demonstrate this kind of humility today?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

God Time Day 4: A Light in a Dark World



Read Philippians 2:14-15  
*14 Do everything without grumbling and arguing, 15 so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world.*

Underline how we are to “do everything.”

In verse 15, what is the result of acting this way?

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Circle what we *shine* like.

Jesus also taught about letting our light shine.



Read Matthew 5:14-16  
*14 “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

Draw a box around the result of letting our light shine.

This week, we’ve seen that our purpose is to “*be worthy of the gospel, contending for the faith, in humility.*”

Based upon this, how will you “*let your light shine before others*” this week?

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What good works can those who don’t know Jesus see in you?

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When they see these good works, who will receive glory?



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God Time Day 5: Three Questions



If we are to fulfill our CBC Mission Statement (Demonstrate God’s Love, Declare the Good News, and Disciple Near & Far), we need to have practical actions we can take.



Read Ephesians 4:11-13  
*11 And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness.*

Underline the different abilities that God gave.

In verse 12, circle the reasons for these gifts.



According to verse 13, what will the result be?

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These three questions can help to determine our actions:

1. **What is my Part?** How are you serving your CBC Family?

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Need direction? Talk to a pastor or ministry leader.

2. **What is my Gift?** How are you sacrificially lifting up others?

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Not sure where to start? Complete the *Know Your Strengths* assessments at [CBCFamily.net/Go2](http://CBCFamily.net/Go2).

3. **What is my Group?** Unless we are giving and receiving in intentional relationships with others, our faith will remain untested and weak. What 4G group are you in?

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**4G Group** info can be found at [CBCFamily.net/4G](http://CBCFamily.net/4G).

Ladies: Check out **Agape Groups**: [CBCFamily.net/women](http://CBCFamily.net/women).

Guys: Check out **Fireteams**: [CBCFamily.net/Men](http://CBCFamily.net/Men).

Remember, you were saved as an individual to be part of a family! It is in commUNITY that we reflect God to a lost world.

Group Time

LOOK BACK:



1. Each participant shares one praise and one prayer request. (Commit these to prayer for the coming week.)

2. ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See last page for directions)

Y / N	Y / N	_____
_____	_____	

3. **Point:** A thumb without the rest of the fingers is only good for hitchhiking and saying, “Good job.”

Share with your group the results from your Spiritual Gifts and Personality Assessments. If not already involved in ministry, discuss where might be a good fit for you.

LOOK UP:

**Question:** Last week we looked at the saying, “Many hands make light work.” Today, let’s look at the saying, “Too many chiefs and not enough Indians.” How have you experienced this?

**Recap:** Everybody claims to be busy. The problem is, we don’t seem to be accomplishing anything. For many, life seems to be a lot of wheels spinning only resulting in mud being tossed around. It can lead to depression, loneliness, anxiety, fear, and a sense of meaninglessness. Many of us have forgotten who we are and that we are living for a purpose.

Paul reminds us in his letter to the Philippians, that as born-again believers in Jesus Christ, we are “*citizens of heaven,*” “*contending together for the sake of the gospel.*” We have been purchased with a price and adopted into a community for a purpose – to spread God’s kingdom. This purpose requires unity, which will require humility.

Discussion

Read Philippians 1:27. Who are we and what is our purpose? What does “*contending*” mean and how does it play out in church reality?

Read Philippians 2:3-8. Explain this concept of *humility* and why you think it’s essential to fulfilling our purpose.

Read Philippians 2:14-16. In your own words, explain the what, why, and intended result of these verses. What might be the outcome of that?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

**Point:** Be light in a dark world – live your purpose and make an eternal difference.

*The Darker The Night, The Brighter The Light*

- We asked this question last week, but we are going to ask it again. “How is your ministry activity advancing God’s kingdom?”

If you don’t know for certain, you may be spinning your wheels, and while the mud may look good, it’s still mud. Discuss this with others in the same ministry. Then, either define how your ministry is advancing God’s kingdom, change the ministry’s actions, or consider finding a new ministry.

- Does your ministry activity require you to sacrifice something? Does it require some humility? If not, seek a ministry that does.

This is not some sort of false sacrifice or humility. It’s good to get started in your skillset to learn the lay of the land, but then teach someone else to do it and broaden yourself. Let God take control. Find something that is outside of your comfort zone, something that will stretch you. Use the opportunity to learn from others.

- Who are you giving to and receiving from?
  - 1) Is it time for you to start another Group and use your experience to guide others?
  - 2) Are you connected regularly with two-to-three trusted, same-gender, teammates? If not, find them today.

Women: Check out **Agape Groups:** [CBCFamily.net/women](http://CBCFamily.net/women) Men: Check out **Fireteams** at [CBCFamily.net/men](http://CBCFamily.net/men).



## Family Group Time

### Main Idea: Doing Your Part



#### Key Verse: Philippians 2:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.



#### Set it Up:

We can all get so busy trying to do what we want to do that we lose focus on what God wants for our life. Check out this video that helps us see the importance of working together and not lose sight of what we are doing.



#### Watch: Week 3 Video




#### Talk About It:

What did you like most about the video? Why did the meerkats want the piece of fruit? (To eat it) Did the meerkats work well together to get it back from the vulture? Did they end up getting to eat the fruit? (No)



They all had a common goal but then they ended up losing sight of what the goal was. It went from eating to just trying to get the fruit back. When they lost sight of the real reason, the meerkats ended up losing out on what they wanted.

The same thing can happen to us. The purpose that God has for each of us requires us to stay focused and unified.



#### Work It Out:

Put a few items that the kids might argue about (remote control, game system controller, favorite toy, etc.) in a bag. One at a time, have a person from the family choose an item from the bag. Discuss how we might have a disagreement about that item.

Why do we have disagreements? If there is only one of something, do we fight over it, or can we share it?

Here are three steps you can use to help solve a disagreement:

1. **Consider others.** Read Philippians 2:3-4. What does this verse tell us to do?
2. **Stay calm.** Read James 1:19-20. What happens when we get angry? What does this verse say we should do when we get angry?
3. **Talk it out.** Read Matthew 5:23-24. When the Christian believers did not agree, they talked about their problem. They not only talked, but they also listened.

Disagreements will happen, but we can work together to find a good solution.

## The 3-Step “1-on-1 Encouragement” Process

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Choose partners: Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number, three is OK, but work swiftly.
2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

	1) Did you spend specific personal time in the <b>BIBLE</b> <u>each day</u> this past week?	These are “Yes” or “No” questions.
	2) Did you spend specific time in <b>PRAYER</b> <u>each day</u> this past week – not just for meals?	Any hesitations or “Well...” responses are circled “No.”
	3) Did you do something specific to show Godly <b>LOVE</b> to someone this past week?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the gospel with, or discipled.</li> <li>• If not, leave the line blank.</li> </ul>
	4) Did you intentionally share the <b>GOSPEL</b> with anyone this past week?	
	5) Did you <b>DISCIPLE</b> anyone this past week? (Ex: Sharing with others from any of the Gathering, God, Group, or Family Times)	

3. To finish, each partner prays for the other: No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!