

Longing for Community
The Jesus Follower Message Series Week 1
Pastor Rich Landosky
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Introduction:

- The world longs for community.
- The world tries to meet this longing that the Church was meant to meet.

1. We were created for community.

- The first “crisis” in the Bible—Genesis 2:18.
- “The paradox of our age is that we’ve never been more connected as a culture, and we’ve never felt more alone.”
-Carey Nieuwhof
- God has always existed in community.
- We are image-bearers of God. (Genesis 1:26a)

2. We need community. (Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Romans 12:5; Philippians 2:3-4; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24-25)

We need community, because in community:

- We are sharpened, honed, and challenged.
- We help each other.
- We become less self-centered and selfish as we recognize that we actually belong to each other and are to consider others more important than ourselves.
- We fulfill the job God has for us to exhort and encourage each other towards Jesus.

3. When we live in community, we grow. (Acts 2:42-47)

We grow spiritually together = Love God

We grow relationally together = Love Others

We grow stronger together = Reach Out

“In our day, whenever the church is ineffective and its witness remains unproductive, the first questions that must be raised are whether the church functions as authentic community and whether it lives out the reality of its oneness.”

Gilbert Bilezikian, *Community 101*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI, 1997, p. 37.

4. The Jesus Follower–Priorities for the Journey

CBC's Discipleship Pathway (see diagram on back)

Living in Biblical Community at CBC:

Life Groups

- Discipleship groups that meet together regularly (typically weekly or every other week)
- Can meet Sunday mornings or other times throughout the week
- Study God's Word together, pray together, encourage each other towards Christlikeness, serve together
- Share life together

Growth Groups

- Examples: re:generation, GriefShare, Financial Peace University
- Discipleship groups that come together for a defined period of time over a specific topic, issue, or life circumstance

Interest Groups

- See Interest Group Information Guide and Leader Applications in today's program, at the Welcome Center, or contact Pastor Rich at rlandosky@cbcpa.org.

Mini-Retreats

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY



How CBC lives out Loving God,
Loving Others, and Reaching Out

