

# COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community Group Introduction

Week 1 of 2024 Winter Groups Trimester

January 14, 2024

Community Group Discussion Questions

**Plan to catch up with your group the first week, enjoy a meal together, take some time to review plans for the Community Group trimester, and review the goals of Community Groups.**

## POSSIBLE ICEBREAKER

1. **Share your name and a high or low from the holidays.**
2. Share your name and 1 thing you are most looking forward to this year.

## COMMUNITY GROUP OVERVIEW

3. **Review ABC's: Purpose of Community Groups:** Apply the Bible, Build Relationships, Care for Each Other
4. **Review Group Commitments for A Healthy Group:** <http://bit.ly/CGAgreement> (See below). Read and ask if anyone has any questions.
5. **Discuss Volunteer Schedule for snacks, childcare, hosting, and facilitation.** Bring a preassigned volunteer schedule if possible: [www.NorthridgeLeaders.com/volunteer-schedule-template](http://www.NorthridgeLeaders.com/volunteer-schedule-template)
  - o Other potential volunteer roles include: Sending weekly emails, organizing socials or serving projects, tracking prayer requests
6. **Discuss starting and ending time and trimester schedule.**
  - o Group trimester goes from January 14 – March 30 (11 Weeks)
  - o Let's honor each other by starting on time and agreeing about how to handle the ending time. Generally it is best to have a hard ending but let people know they can stay to hang out afterwards.
7. **Explain how a normal Community Group night will look for those who are new to groups.**
  - o Social time (10-20 minutes)
  - o Ice Breaker (10 minutes)
  - o Sermon Discussion (30-40 minutes)
  - o Group Prayer Time, Usually in gendered groups (30-45 minutes)
  - o Hangout/Head home
8. **Plan to collect and share contact information for group members**

## DISCUSS COMMITMENTS FOR A HEALTHY GROUP

1. **I will make this 11-week group trimester a priority by attending weekly and participating openly in group discussion. I will call ahead if I am going to be absent or late.**
2. **I will strive to build authentic relationships with those in this group by showing care, providing encouragement and praying for their needs. I will keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group.**
3. **I will regularly attend services at Northridge and contribute to the ministry of the church through my attendance and inviting of others with a desire to see this group multiply down the road.**
4. **I will explore honestly my next steps for spiritual growth.**

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Does Your Heart Break?

The Ripple Effect, Matthew 9:35-38

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## PLEASE READ BEFORE LEADING DISCUSSION

- Recommended questions are highlighted in bold, but select 5 or 6 questions you think will work best for your group discussion. You likely won't have time to discuss all of the questions so choose which questions you will ask ahead of time and make sure to provide plenty of time to focus on the application questions.
- Feel free to edit or reword questions to best fit your group.
- You may want to print out copies of this document for everyone so they can follow along with the questions as you read them.
- Check out this Facilitation Guide (<http://bit.ly/CGFacilitationGuide>) for tips on leading good discussions.

## ICEBREAKER (5-10 Minutes)

1. Share your name and a high or low from the holidays.
2. Share your name and 1 thing you are most looking forward to this year.

**OPENING THE DISCUSSION (5-10 Minutes)** – *Have someone recap the message in about a minute or two and then ask the following questions:*

3. Looking at your sermon notes, what were you most challenged by from Sunday's message?

**DIGGING DEEPER (10 Minutes)** – *ask everyone to follow along in their Bible or Bible app. You might consider looking up these passages online and sharing your screen to review them together.*

4. Read Matthew 9:35-38.
  - What can we learn from Jesus' example in these verses?
  - What keeps our hearts from feeling compassion for the broken people and situations in the world?
5. Read Romans 9:1-3.
  - How does Paul's description of his sorrow and anguish for others shape our own perspective?

**APPLYING IT (10-20 Minutes)** –

6. What was your biggest personal takeaway from Sunday's message? How do you want to live or think differently in light of this discussion?

**GROWTH GOALS:** ([Print Growth Goal Forms or share the link online](#)) – *this may be great to discuss in prayer time.*

7. What is a next step in your faith you want to take this year?
  - Need a week to think about it? Share the Growth Goals Idea list from the link above and discuss your goals next week.
  - Record everyone's goals and share them with each other in a text, email, or document. The more specific we can be, the more likely we will complete them.
  - Pair up group members together to regularly follow up on each other's progress and pray for each other during the week.