

WELCOME to Session 3

The Transformed Life

Practicing the Presence of God

❖ **Redemptive Community**

Abundant Simplicity

HOW TO USE THIS PARTICIPANTS' GUIDE



You will not need to take many notes as you follow along using this guide while watching the DVD. You'll be able to view it with your full attention because notes are provided.

The last few pages in the guide provide questions for you to reflect on after watching the DVD. Some pages offer exercises for you to experiment with before the next meeting. As the Spirit leads, choose one of those experiments and reflect (report in if you're with a group) on if and how you connected with God during the experiment. This isn't a pass/fail situation. The goal is to connect with God and that may happen in a way you weren't expecting.

Additional questions appear throughout the guide that you might want to answer as you go, or later as you reflect on the material.

We really do **need** each other



Because we can learn about what God is like from relationship with each other

We can learn to know God through each other.

Community gives us a sense of the reality of Christ with us.

If you've been
sinned against relationally,



you need to be **healed** relationally.

Others can
be a
vehicle of
healing



in the hands of Jesus Christ



Spiritual Disciplines are. . .

more
caught



than
taught

What discipline or simple habit or even character trait have you caught from someone else?

We learn

courage

know-how

confidence

through *relationships*



What is Community ?

Being one in heart & soul



(Acts 4:32)

We may not agree on *many* things,
but we can have oneness of spirit
because of Christ.

What is Community ?

Being one in heart & soul
Redemptive



Redemptive:
creating space where God can pull
us back from our slide
into sin and despair

What is Community ?

Being one in heart & soul

Redemptive

**A place of love, to be formed
into Christ-like-ness**



**Love=engaging the will for the good
of the other person**

Surprising Ideas

Welcoming



Not ~~selective~~ or ~~choosy~~



Community is not about being comfortable or fitting in.

Community can exist between people with little in common, even enemies,



Surprising Ideas

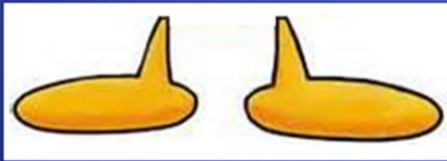
Not
about

being
comfortable



Community is about reaching out to others in love instead of “sizing people up.”

The head can't say to the feet,



*I don't
need
you!*



(1 Cor 12:21)

Warm feelings of closeness are not required for community.

Love is not a feeling, but a determination to walk alongside others.

Don't make
feelings of closeness



a requirement for
community



Wanting feelings of closeness can
BLOCK community.

Some people are not capable of
being transparent, open (at least to the
degree we are). Should they be
excluded from community?

SHARED LOVE FOR CHRIST



~~Not Giving to Get~~



We reach out to others, but we also want *something in return*.

Pursue love (1 Cor 14:1)

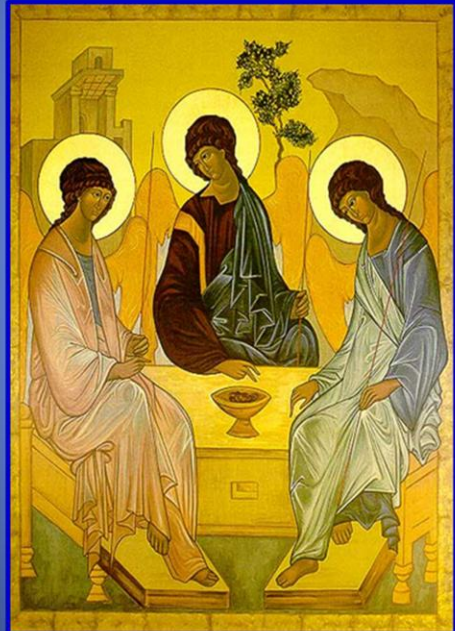
Community based on shared love for Christ.

Trinity → Community

With each other

No competition

Selfless love



CHRIST = MEDIATOR



Community: School of love, not a bed of roses.

Everything comes through God.

I filter your words and actions toward me *through Christ*.

HOLY SPACE



between
us



Christ becomes the mediator in all relationships.

Holy space creates respect.

Paul and Philemon

Goal \neq Community



**Goal = Give glory
to Christ together**

Result → Community

Making community your goal
doesn't work.

It requires a larger goal.

Shared love for Christ creates
community.

Disciplines that Create Community



FELLOWSHIP

with Intentionality

How
might I
love this
person?



Jesus' intentionality with Peter,
Zacchaeus and the apostles.

Disciplines that Create Community



SUBMISSION



Not
pushing
to get my
way

Ephesians 5:21 “subject to one another”

Surrendering others to God

Disciplines that Create Community



SUBMISSION

**Being
fully
present**



Listening=minute-by-minute
submission

Disciplines that Create Community



CONFESSION

Confess your sins to one
another and pray for one
another that you may be
healed -- James 5:16



We are as sick as our secrets.

“He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

“Proverbs 28:13

Disciplines that Create Community

GUIDANCE



**Let the word of Christ dwell
in you richly as you teach and
admonish one another in all
wisdom. --Colossians 3:16**



We all need to be investing in
someone who looks up to us and
developing a relationship with
someone we look up to.

Disciplines that Create Community

SERVICE



Locking
arms in
service

Service: The most overlooked
community builder

“As for Titus, he is my partner & co-
worker in your service” (2 Cor 8:23).

Disciplines that Create Community



WELCOMING THE STRANGER



I was a
stranger and
you invited me in.

Matthew 25:35



Cultivating an invitational spirit and offering a sense of “home” to others (John 14:23).

EXERCISE



Picture
someone . . .



Write that person's name or initials
here, if you wish.



EXERCISE



Picture
someone . . .



Write that person's name or initials
here, if you wish.



Picture
someone . . .



Write that person's name or initials
here, if you wish.

TRANSFORMATION EXPERIMENTS

When listening, *look only at* the person (not around or behind person).

Ask someone to *serve* alongside you.

Talk with someone you normally *overlook* or *avoid*.

QUESTIONS



Discussion, Prayer, Journaling

Where could Christ be your *mediator*?

How might you welcome “strangers”?

How could *submission, confession*
or *service* build community in
your life?

foreword by DALLAS WILLARD

INVITATION
TO THE
JESUS LIFE

EXPERIMENTS IN CHRISTLIKENESS

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