

Life Together
Week 1: Community

Welcome/Icebreaker

- Without using a person's name, how would you finish this sentence:
"I love _____."

Introductory Questions

- What made you want to join a group like this one?
- What do you hope to get out of this group?

Video

Watch the teaching video together, taking notes of important points, new ideas, or things that you have questions about.

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Brian shared about the impact that being in community had on his faith. Have you seen the same in your life?
2. Do you have experience being in a group like this, or is it new?
3. What benefits do you see from surrounding yourself with community? What about being in a group can be difficult?
4. We heard in the video some of the barriers that people experience to building community- time, childcare, intentionality, etc. Has there been something that has kept you from joining a group, or something that led to you leaving a group?
5. As a group, let's read this description of the early church in Acts 2:42-47.
 - a. What aspects of community do you notice from this group of Christians?
 - b. What can we learn from this model of community?
6. As you look at Acts 2, what differences do you see between true Christian community and simply spending time with friends, neighbors, or coworkers? Why is it important to have both?
7. What do you hope God does in your life over the next 6 weeks?

Life Together
Week 2: Accountability

Welcome/Icebreaker-

- If you could go back and re-do one moment of your life, would you? If so, what moment would you choose?

Introductory Questions-

- Who is the person who knows you the best?
- What makes you trust that person?

Video-

Watch the teaching video together, taking notes of important points, new ideas, or things that you have questions about.

Discussion Questions-

1. Pastor Andrew shared this definition of accountability- *"Accountability is the intentional act of inviting others to walk alongside you & speak into your life so that you can grow your faith in Christ and your obedience to Christ."*
 - a. Do you agree with this definition?
 - b. Is it different than what first comes to your mind when you think of being accountable to others?
2. Why is it so beneficial for us to have people that we are accountable to?
3. What barriers are there- for you, or for people in general- to building accountable, authentic relationships with other people? What do you think of this idea- is it exciting, intimidating, strange, off-putting?
4. We heard in the video the "4 C's" of accountability:
 - a. Complete- *"We will always be tempted to practice partial accountability. We'll reveal the parts of ourselves that are safest."*
 - i. Is that true of you?
 - ii. Is there a part of your life that feels "off-limits" to others or even to God?
 - b. Consistent- *"True accountability isn't seasonal- it's regular."*
 - i. Do you have someone in your life that you are consistently accountable to?

- ii. What do you think would change in your life if you did?
- c. Compassionate- *"When others choose to share their sin and struggles with you, you are acting as a representative of Christ in that moment."*
 - i. What do you see as the right attitude or response when someone shares the struggles of their life with you?
- d. Confident- *"The bedrock of healthy accountability is a confidence that the God who called you is faithful."*
 - i. Are you ever tempted to believe that God will give up on you, stop loving you, or abandon you?
 - ii. How can practicing accountability keep us from believing this lie?

Teaching Notes:

Life Together
Week 3: Scripture

Welcome/Icebreaker-

- Who was your favorite teacher? What about the way they taught did you appreciate?

Introductory Questions-

- Do you have a “life verse/passage” of Scripture?
- Do you have a current favorite verse or passage?

Video-

Watch the teaching video together, taking notes of important points, new ideas, or things that you have questions about.

Discussion Questions-

1. What has your experience been in reading and studying Scripture?
 - a. What has been helpful for you?
 - b. What has been difficult for you?
2. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Scripture is described as inspired by God and good for “teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness”.
 - a. Have you experienced these qualities of Scripture?
 - b. How do these purposes impact how you engage with God’s Word?
3. In the video, Pastor Sterling described the Bible as more than a rulebook or series of one-liners, but as the “story of God”.
 - a. Do you agree with that description?
 - b. How would you summarize that story in 2 to 3 sentences?
4. As a group, read Col. 3:12-17.
 - a. What about living in community do you see in this passage?
 - b. What habits have you found helpful to allow the word of Christ to “dwell in you richly”?
5. One of the most used titles of Jesus in the Gospels is “Rabbi” or “Teacher”.
 - a. What does that show us about the way Jesus viewed the Scripture of His day, what we refer to as the Old Testament?
 - b. What is something that God has been teaching you through His Word recently?

Life Together
Week 4: Prayer

Welcome/Icebreaker-

- Do you have a favorite family tradition? What about it do you enjoy?

Introductory Questions-

- Who in your life do you most want to tell when you get good or bad news?
- Have you known someone who never seems to respond how you wished that they would?

Video-

Watch the teaching video together, taking notes of important points, new ideas, or things that you have questions about.

Discussion Questions-

1. Talk about the role of prayer in your life. Is it something you look forward to? Enjoy? Persevere in? Avoid?
2. In the video, we heard this definition of prayer- *"Prayer is the gift of quality time with the One who has created us- a reminder that the God of the universe wants to have a conversation with me."*
 - a. Do you agree with that definition?
 - b. What comes to your mind when you consider God desiring relational time with you?
3. We saw in Luke 5 Jesus' consistent practice of solitary prayer.
 - a. Why did Jesus prioritize prayer so highly in his life?
 - b. What lessons can we learn from his example?
4. In the video we heard this quote from David Platt- *"The primary purpose of prayer is not to get something but to be with someone."*
 - a. Do you agree with that?
 - b. How can our prayer lives better reflect this idea?
5. Many have taught the acronym PRAY, as a helpful way to learn how to pray- Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield.
 - a. Of these four aspects of prayer, which is easiest and which is most difficult?

6. We also heard about the importance of praying with and for each other.
 - a. Is corporate prayer- praying out loud with others- something you're comfortable with?
 - b. Why is it so important that we practice this with our community?
 - c. Do you have people who you know are consistently praying for you? If so, what impact has that made in your life? If not, how might that affect you?

Teaching Notes:

Life Together
Week 5: Service

Welcome/Icebreaker-

- Of the five “love languages” - words of affirmation, physical touch, gifts, quality time, and acts of service- what are your top 1 or 2?

Introductory Questions-

- Have you ever been on a short- or long-term mission trip?
 - If so, how did it impact you?
 - If not, what would you want to do and where?

Video-

Watch the teaching video together, taking notes of important points, new ideas, or things that you have questions about.

Discussion Questions-

1. If your group could make an impact through serving and be guaranteed success, what would you do together?
2. Pastor Bruce shared that part of the purpose of Christian community is to “make Jesus famous”.
 - a. What comes to mind when you hear that phrase?
 - b. What might that look like in your own circle of influence?
3. As a group, read John 13:3-14.
 - a. What about the servant heart of Jesus stands out to you in this story?
 - b. What does it mean for you to obey His commandment in v. 14- that “you also ought to wash one another’s feet”?
 - c. Is there someone in your family, workplace, community, etc. that you could meet a tangible need for?
4. Pastor Bruce shared these four reminders with us:
 - Serving is never beneath you
 - Serving others is not about who they are, but about who Jesus is
 - Humility is not only about our willingness to serve, but also our willingness to be served
 - There is always a blessing in serving

- a. Which of these reminders challenges you the most?
- b. Is it easier for you to serve or be served?
- c. How have you been blessed by serving others?

Teaching Notes:

Life Together
Week 6: Multiplication

Welcome/Icebreaker-

- What do you think the best restaurant in the area is? What's your go-to meal?

Introductory Questions-

- When you hear the word multiplication, what comes to mind?
- What has been something about being in a small group- this one or a previous experience- that you have enjoyed?

Video-

Watch the teaching video together, taking notes of important points, new ideas, or things that you have questions about.

Discussion Questions-

1. As we wrap up this study today, what stands out to you from the last six weeks as we've explored community, accountability, Scripture, prayer, and service?
2. Can you think of someone who has made you feel included or welcomed here at Chapelstreet, or in a previous church experience?
 - a. How did that impact the way you thought about church?
 - b. Have you been able to be that person for someone else?
3. In the video, we heard about the importance of hospitality.
 - a. Is this something that comes naturally to you?
 - b. Why is it so important?
 - c. What are ways that you can be hospitable to the people around you?
4. As a group, read Philippians 1:3-8.
 - a. What does it mean to have a "partnership in the gospel"?
 - b. How do you view your involvement in this church- as a partner? A consumer? An observer?
5. As a group, what might it look like for us to grow and welcome new people into this circle? Is there someone that you think would benefit from this community?

Teaching Notes: