

GOD 101: Who we are

Community Group

Acts 20:25-31 /// Week of March 5

Today's big idea: It is important to know who we are as a church.

- Play “Have You Ever?”
- Review the Community Group Guidelines together.
- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.

Head

- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of Paul with the Ephesian leaders.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from Acts 20:25-31 in the Bible.
- What did Paul claim about himself to these leaders?
- What did Paul encourage the leaders to do?

Heart

- Why is it important for us to know what we believe?
- Do you see yourself as a shepherd of God's church, one who is being shepherded or something else? And why?
- Do you feel like you are part of the HFC family and what does that mean to you?

Hands

- What is one step you could take to learn more about who we are as a church, or how could you help someone else learn more about who we are as a church?
- What are some things that each of us can do to “keep watch over yourselves and all the flock”?
- Close in prayer together.

Before You Go...

- Discuss planning a group WeServe activity in March
What ideas do you have for a service project individually, as a family, or as a community group that you would like to lead? Contact: Naomi at 713.202.1395 or naomi@hfcog.org

Community Group Member Covenant

- I will make attendance a priority in my schedule and involvement a priority in my participation. • I will build trust by holding in confidence those things shared in the Community Group. • I will engage with a disciple maker—someone that will help me grow as a disciple of Jesus and teach me how to be a disciple maker as well.



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COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDELINES

Confidentiality

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person.

Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

Don't Rescue & Don't Fix

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

Use Humor Responsibly

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

Use "I" Statements

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

Fight for Relationship

Relationships reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.