



Life Community Leadership Training Celebration Center

Becoming passionate representatives of Christ in our community

A Life Community is a group of people who are committed to being together as friends, intentionally growing together in their relationship with Christ, and serving together in tangible ways in the greater community.

Our Mission:

We are becoming disciples who passionately represent Christ in our community.

Our Vision

To frequently send out churches, ministries and individuals who passionately represent Christ into this community and beyond so that this community becomes a place where marriages thrive, a place where children can be safe and excel, a place full of healthy friends, and a place where God’s transforming work is obvious, to the glory of God.

Our Process

GATHER

Connect with God & with friends

Key Process: Weekend Gatherings

GROW

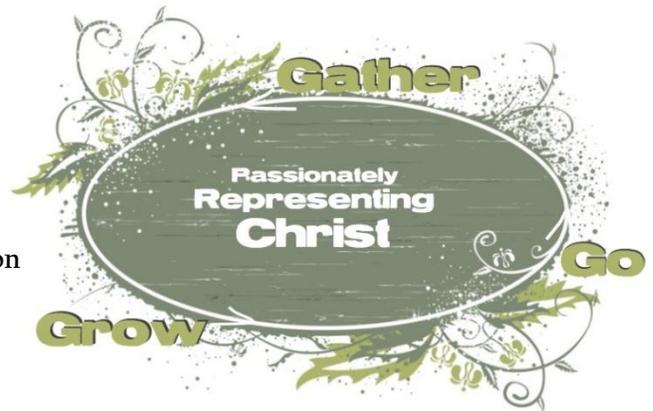
in your relationship to Christ and as a whole person

Key Process: Small Groups

GO

Make a Difference

Key Process: Serving Others



Our Covenant Values

- Because we value **lost people**, evangelism will be job one in every ministry of the church.
- Because we believe **God’s Word applied** transforms people’s lives, we will covenant to learn it, teach it, apply it and model it whenever and wherever we can.
- Because we value **intimacy with God**, we will covenant to worship Him with passion, and to lace our lives with prayer.
- Because we believe God has called us to **love people**, we will covenant to share life as community, make new friends in our community, reach out to the broken, and do ministry as a team.
- Because we believe **integrity** must be the base of our activity, we will covenant to be honest about our condition, sincere about our faith, genuine in our approach and accountable for our personal lives. We’re not given to hype or performance.
- Because we value **young people**, we covenant to see them as the church in action and the church in training, and we will invest time, energy and resources into reaching the next generation for Christ.
- Because we believe in **multiplication**, we covenant to disciple individuals, develop and release leaders, reproduce ministries and plant churches.

PART 1

Objectives of Part 1:

1. Briefly create a picture of what a Life Community is.
2. Discuss and define discipleship
3. Understand the concept of “Rhythms of Life” and how they influence our approach to community and discipleship

The Picture:

What if we got serious about helping our friends become more like Jesus? What if we truly realized that our entire life is supposed to be lived as a missionary for Christ?

How might our lives change?

What are the barriers to that?

What if we realized that the people in our lives – including, but also *beyond* our family - are there on purpose – because God put them there?

And what if we decided that for the next year, we are going to commit to purposely invest our life, regularly and consistently, into a few people so that we might know Jesus more?

-And not just in a weekly meeting – but in life together – hanging out, having fun, discovering God, working through stuff, praying.

THAT IS LIFE COMMUNITY.

A Life Community is a group of people who are committed to being together as friends, intentionally growing together in their relationship with Christ, and serving together in tangible ways in the greater community.

The Disciple and Discipler

1. What is different about the gospel of Jesus than it was 20 years ago?
Nothing.
2. What is a disciple?

One who has acknowledged his need for a Savior (Rom. 10:9), has been adopted into the family of God (Rom. 8:14-16; John 1:12-13), who is increasingly becoming like Jesus as revealed in His Word (Rom. 8:28-29), and is surrendering every aspect of his life for the purposes and glory of Christ (John 8:31-32; Luke 14:27; Phil. 1:21).

3. How are disciples made – according to the models given in scripture?
How did Jesus do it? How did the apostles do it?
See Mark 3:13-16; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47

As a leader of a Life Community, we
are asking you to facilitate a
community that makes disciples.

Our commitment is to faithfully invest into *your* discipleship.

4. Eight Elements of Becoming a Disciple who makes Disciples.

a. Be a disciple.

What does your own followership of Jesus look like? In what ways are you intentionally growing as a disciple of Christ?

b. Pray and pay attention to the people God has put around you.

Ask God: Who have you put in my life that you might want me to invite into a discipleship relationship?

c. Invite some people into a discipleship relationship.

Think of some simple ways you can invite others to follow Jesus with you.

d. Befriend people.

What can you do to get to know the people who you’re discipling better?

e. Teach what you know.

What do you know about life, God, faith, scripture, prayer, etc.? What is in your teaching tool box?

*You can teach what you know but
you will reproduce who you are.
Wayne Cordeiro*

f. Train people with the skills you have.

What do you do that you can train others to do? (ie, prayer, reading the bible, stewardship, serving, etc.)

g. Reflect back to them about character formation.

What have you learned about your own character over the years? How has your character been shaped? What are some character concerns you can address with others?

h. Follow Jesus together.

“...surely I am with you always.” - Matthew 28:20

Next Steps

1. Identify which of the 8 elements above you do well and which one(s) is most challenging to you.
2. Read one of the four Gospels in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) or one of Paul’s letters to Timothy (1 or 2 Timothy) and look for how Jesus and/or Paul disciplined others.

Sometimes our American way of independence and individualism creeps into our philosophy of ministry and discipleship. But discipleship is a community activity.

“I will make you fishers of men” - this was something they did *together*. We use a pole and a hook. They used a *net*.

5. Name some of the metaphors God uses for the church.

Body, family, temple

What do these tell us about the nature of the church?

So we don’t believe that discipleship is an individual sport. Yes, we have to feed ourselves. But God intended for us to live in community.

Consider Hebrews 10:24-25. In what environment does that best happen?

The Rhythms of Life

1. What are some of the questions people are asking that are the same today as they were 20 years ago?

- i.e. What is my purpose/What do I have to offer?
Do I matter to anybody?
Can I provide for my family?
Will I be successful?

2. Is there anything different about life today than it was 10 years ago (2002)?

- No Facebook or twitter
- No texting as a public norm
- No Smart phones – blackberry was a fruit
- No Blu-Ray, DVR was quite rare, No flat screens
- YouTube did not exist
- Online banking did not exist
- The housing market was a lock-tight investment
- Much less online commerce.

3. What is different about life today than it was 30 years ago (1982)?

- No internet
- Computers were a brand new phenomenon
- No cell phones (video)
- You could meet somebody at the airport gate
- No Starbucks, no Costco!
- View of Marriage & family
- No community or school kids’ activities on Sundays or Wednesday nights.

4. Has anything changed about the way people learn?

- See Appendix: “A Shift in Communication”

5. How about you? How is your life, demands on your time, and connection to others different today than 10 or 20 years ago?

In Summary...

Goal: Make disciples

Philosophy: Discipleship happens in the context of relationship/community

Cultural Context: 2012/2013 Northwest America

This defines our “how”

If we are to live as missionaries, we understand the culture and the unique rhythms of the lives we are called to reach, and we present the gospel in such a way that it transforms lives.

Because of a constant, fast changing culture, we can’t continue to do things as we have and hope to have the same results.

So we have considered the “how.”

The Great Commandment: Love God, Love others.

Matt. 22:36-40; *John 13:34-35*

The Great Commission: Go, baptize, teach to obey

Matt. 28:18-20

The greatest testing ground for the things we have learned about God is the way we have applied them in our relationships with others.

Gather

Grow

Go

We are becoming disciples who passionately represent Christ in our communities.

PART 2

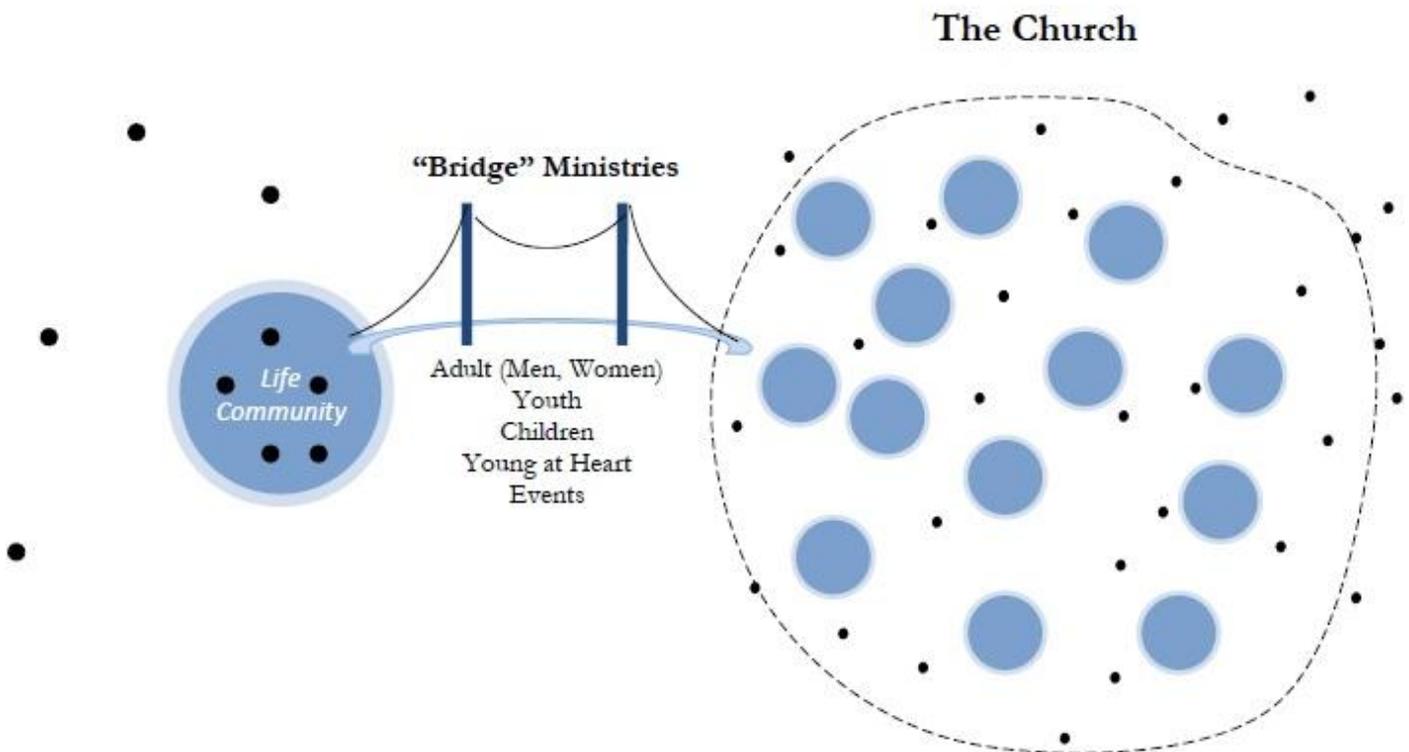
Objectives of Part 2:

1. Briefly review Part 1
2. Discuss Life Communities’ place in the overall picture
3. Nuts and Bolts of a Life Community
4. What is the Leader’s Job Description

Here is why our last session was important:

1. I need you to understand that Life Communities are about discipleship and multiplication.
2. We have confused knowledge with discipleship, making discipleship a classroom activity. We need knowledge, but knowledge does not create a disciple. Applied knowledge in relationship does.
3. Jesus doesn’t change, but our culture is rapidly changing. We have to see ourselves as missionaries to our culture.

Life Communities in the Overall Picture of Celebration Center



Nuts and Bolts of a Life Community

How does an LC get started?

- A Leader agrees to facilitate an LC in accordance with the Life Community Leadership Covenant. *See Page 14*
- A Leader selects an initial group of 3 or 4 other families/individuals that would agree to commit to investing in one another’s growth for at least one year. This becomes the “core team” and a primary ministry in their life.
- The leader initially drafts answers to the “Life Community Defining Questions” and then gathers the initial “core team” as many times as necessary to more clearly define the vision and structure of the group according to the “Life Community Defining Questions”. From this flows the Group Vision. *See this on pg. 13, and a sample completed one on page 19*
- The LC finds a host location that fits the unique structure of the group.
- The LC does life together, committed to making and becoming disciples for the next year.

“Jesus is an incredible gift to us. And as people in ministry we get the privilege of carrying that gift to the world. Our ministry can be likened to the box and wrapping paper and bow. Our size and style of wrapping paper and boxes can vary from ministry to ministry, but we’re all trying to deliver the same gift. Never lose sight of the fact that the box (your ministry) is not as valuable as the gift (Jesus). And the only reason the box exists is to deliver the gift. You have dedicated your life to the gift, not to the box.” – Lance Witt

Expectations of the Life Communities:

- Be accountable to each other for doing life together biblically.
- Establish Life-giving relationships with those outside of the church
- Be there not only on purpose but with purpose
- Be on mission *together* – in other words, the Community takes responsibility for those involved in or connected to their Community.
- Meet at least 2x per month – in the times and places that work best for your group. The goal is to live life together with friends.
- Stay connected to the greater body of Celebration Center through participation and service.

How do new people connect to an LC?

- By invitation of a LC member
- By expressing interest through a connect card on a weekend service. In this case, we will give 2 or 3 LC leaders the contact information and they will contact the interested person.
- By contacting an LC leader to find out more information (Group Vision) and then checking it out.

The Life Community gatherings:

- **Casual.** Do not default to gathering in a circle in a living room. Gather as you would gather with family or friends. Meet around a dinner table, or in the kitchen, or ?
- **Conversational and Participatory.** The job of the leader is not to teach. It is to facilitate conversation and encourage participation.
- **Consistent.** Don’t cancel a gathering if everyone can’t be there. Even if only a couple of people can make it, gather. Remember, you are doing life as friends.
- **Creative.** Mix it up. Do something different and fun sometimes. Meet in a different place. Go to each other’s family sports events, concerts, etc. Go out to dinner together. Catch a movie.
- **Caring.** Pray for each other. Provide meals for the hurting. Mow the lawn of one of our seniors. Visit a member in the hospital. Do an outreach together.
- **Christ-centered.** The goal is to help everybody know and become more and more like Jesus.

“Christ is the church’s centrality. He is her passion. He is, as it were, her obsession. Members specialize in nothing—except Christ. Their goal is to make Him visible in their community. Their hallmark is their growing knowledge of the Lord. Their testimony is their openness to all of God’s people, their humility, and their unmistakable love for one another. Churches that are not characterized by these spiritual features not only miss a step, but they also dance the wrong dance.”
– Frank Viola

A possible structure for the first 3-4 months:

Exercise 1: Each week, two people tell their life story*.

- This will include your testimony of how you came to Christ and the story of your Christian life up until the present day. Your life story will also include what brought you to Celebration Center and to this Life Community.
- Be creative. Include songs, poems, photographs, photos, video clips—anything you wish that will help you communicate your story.
- It would be wise not to tell gruesome details about extremely personal matters from your past as this may make many in the group feel uncomfortable. So please use discernment about how personal you get.
- Note that there are some people who can tell their story in five minutes or less. In such cases, it falls upon the group to ask this person questions and draw the story out of them.
- As new people are added to the group, give them an opportunity to tell their life stories also.
- Do this every week until everyone has told their life stories. When everyone has finished, go on to exercise 2.

**Note to LC Leader: If someone is not comfortable sharing their story, they are under no obligation to do so.*

Exercise 2: Each week, two people bring their two favorite passages or stories from the Bible

- Each person will read the passage to the group and explain what they understand the passage to mean. They will then encourage the group with why it has special meaning for them.
- The sharing will be open for group participation and interaction.
- Your sharing should be personal and from the heart.
- Please stay away from theological discourses, debate, and heady, obscure expounding of the text.
- When everyone who is willing has done this, go on to exercise 3.

Exercise 3: Each week, two people will share what they would like their life to look like in five years.

- This will include their ambitions and aspirations, relating to both earthly and spiritual matters.
- Give as much as you can on this. Let the group hear your hopes, aspirations, and dreams.
- The group is encouraged to interact and comment on what’s shared.

Be careful of Koinonitis! (*Excerpt from Desert Streams Church GROW manual*)

Koinonitis is a spin-off from the Greek word koinonia, which means fellowship.

Koinonia is the corporate experience of God Himself. It’s the sharing of His life. You cannot experience koinonia by yourself. As an individual, it’s out of reach. Koinonia can be experienced only with other believers.

Koinonia, however, can devolve into something quite pathological and poisonous. It can become koinonitis. Koinonitis is the unhealthy overabundance of fellowship that turns a church/group into an insular, ingrown, self-absorbed community.

Koinonitis is too much of a good thing. It’s “fellowship inflammation.” Like high blood pressure, koinonitis is a symptomless disease. A group is typically unaware of it until it suffers a stroke. Outsiders, however, can spot it immediately.

Here are some characteristics of this disease:

1. The group has built an impenetrable wall of protection around itself. Relationships become deified to the point where members don’t feel comfortable having anyone else included who differs in mind-set, belief, or jargon.
2. Even though the group desires to grow, in reality, it has an us-four-and-no-more mentality. It has devolved into an ingrown toenail—an exclusive huddle of navel-gazers who are shortsighted by the view of their own bellies.
3. The group exists solely for itself and its members. It may claim that it exists for the Lord, but in reality it has become a self-enclosed universe.
4. There is little-to-no numerical growth in the group over the long haul. Most people who visit feel awkward and out of place. More leave than stay. The group can go on for years with little-to-no growth, yet few members wince. The thought never occurs to them that they may have something to do with the low volume.
5. A sense of cliquishness is noticeable by those on the outside. Visitors feel welcome to attend meetings, but they don’t feel wanted. The group views them as intruders who may fracture the established fellowship.
6. The group has absolutely no impact on the surrounding culture. Because the members are so absorbed with one another, they never reach outside their four walls. They have little-to-no concern for the lost. They are neither salt nor light to their community. The group can go on for a decade without leading one lost soul to Christ.

Life Community Defining Questions

See Acts 2:42-47

Please answer these three questions as a core team. This will define your **group vision**. Answer the “main questions” under each section, using the sub-questions as a guide. Then consolidate the answers to the three main questions into one succinct paragraph that describes your group vision. (See a sample in the Life Community Training Manual, page 19)

Outward - Time focused on those who don't yet know Jesus.

* **The Main Question:** How will your Life Community meet needs and serve those in need in the greater community?

- Who in our community is on your heart to serve?
- Who in your circle outside of the church would you love to see as a part of this Life Community, and how will you connect with them?
- Where are you already poised or connected in the community to share the good news?

Upward - Time focused on God

* **The Main Question:** How will your LC grow in Christ together?

- In what ways does this LC need to grow spiritually this year?
- What will “doing life biblically” mean for this LC?

Inward - Time focused on those in the body of Christ.

* **The Main Question:** Why will your LC love being together?

- How will you intentionally practice the discipline of fun?
- What are some experiences your LC can share together as a family?
- The early church broke bread and shared common meals together at times. What spiritually significant experiences will you share together?

Practical

*When will you meet, where will you meet, and how frequently?

*How will the kids be involved?

*How will you purposely avoid the tendency for this to revert back to “just another meeting?”

Life Community Leadership Covenant

Personal Discipleship

- Daily prayer and reflection on the gospel in your own life. (What is God saying and teaching you today?)
- Regular time in the Word (What are you studying and learning?)
- Participation in monthly leadership gathering
- Participation in LC Training

Leading Others in Discipleship

- Within the first 4 months of starting your LC, identify a co-leader and prepare them to lead their own LC by:
 - Inviting them to monthly leadership gatherings
 - Allowing them to lead portions of the Life Communities
 - Spending time with them helping them develop their leadership
- Develop your Life Community DNA by completing together with them the “Defining Questions” document. *See sample on pg. 19*
- Facilitate regular and consistent gathering of your LC (at least 2x per month) so that you live increasingly like a family on mission.
- Pray for each person in your LC on a weekly basis.
- Take responsibility for creating a culture of mutual care in your LC.
- Regularly review your “Defining Questions” document to assess effectiveness as an LC.
- Lead your LC in establishing life-giving relationships with, praying for and serving those presently outside of the church.
- Identify opportunities to connect with your LC at times other than regularly scheduled gatherings.

Accountability

- Submit a simple, monthly online report for your LC (*See sample on pg. 18*)
- Return correspondence in a timely manner
- Attend monthly leadership gathering
- Submit to the spiritual leadership of Celebration Center
- Agree with and work within the mission, vision, process and values of Celebration Center.

I have read and agree to the above elements of personal discipleship, leading others in discipleship and accountability

Signature

Date

Appendix:

Jesus was a GREAT storyteller!

The disciples came up and asked, "Why do you tell stories?" Jesus replied, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn't been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understanding flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That's why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight." *Matthew 13:10-13 (The Message)*

The bible tells us that "Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable." *Matthew 13:34 (NIV)*

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself... They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" *Luke 24:27,32 (NIV)*

Do you think that Jesus was pulling a cart of scrolls down the Emmaus road with him?! Of course not. Jesus never owned a copy of the Old Testament, there were very few copies and they were kept exclusively in the synagogues. He told them the Story starting in the beginning...

Other Famous Storytellers in the Bible

Moses (Genesis, Exodus), David (Psalms 78, 105-106), Luke (Gospel of Matthew & Acts) Stephen (Acts 7), Paul (Galatians 3,4; Romans 9), and many more.

A Shift in Communication

Literacy Facts

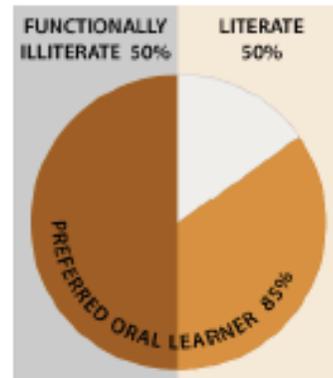
Did you know that in the USA...

- Over 50% of people over age 16 are functionally illiterate.*
- 58% of the U.S. adult population never reads another book after high school.
- 42% of college graduates never read another book.
- 80% of U.S. families did not buy or read a book last year.
- Each day, people in the US spend four hours watching TV, three hours listening to the radio and 14 minutes reading magazines.
- It's estimated that we spend as much as 80% of our non-working, non-sleeping time in front of a screen – TV or PC.
- Researchers believe that 70% or more of the people in North America prefer non-literate means of communication. (Preferred oral learners)

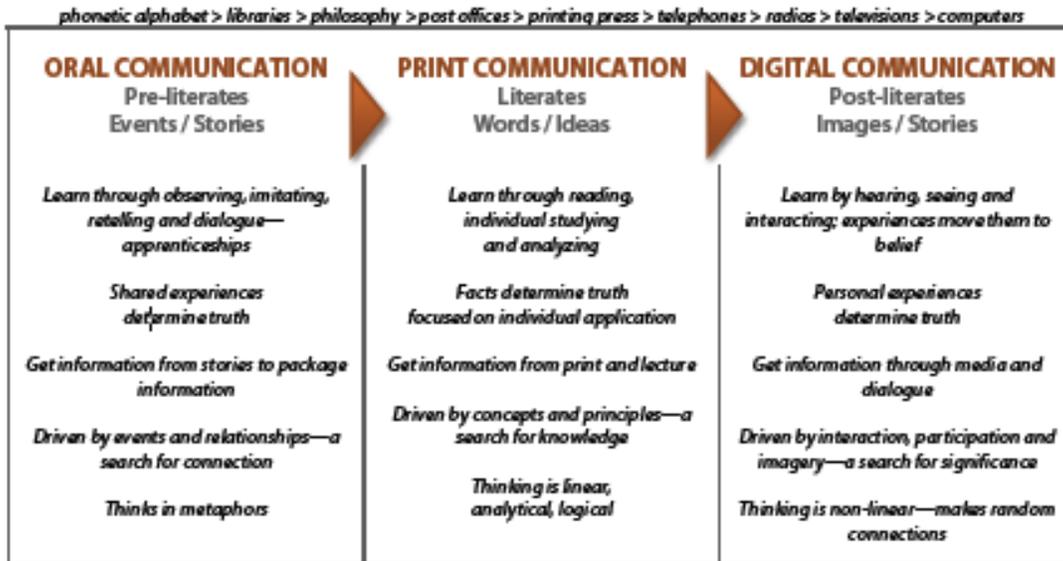
*A person who is functionally illiterate lacks sufficient basic reading and writing skills to function successfully in our society.

A functionally illiterate person...

- Can read some - signs, food labels, advertisements and parts of a newspaper.
- Cannot locate two pieces of information in a news article.
- Can locate the expiration date on their driver's license.
- Cannot successfully fill out a social security card application by themselves.
- Forms opinions from conversations with friends, the radio and TV.
- Learns through stories, anecdotes, proverbs, songs, and practical experiences.



A Revolution Has Begun



As you look at this chart...

Which of these methods of communication and learning is most common for you personally?
Be honest—how do you learn about the world and where do you get new information from...?

Which ways do you think are most common for the people you could most likely make disciples among?

Currently, which ways are you and/or your church primarily using to teach, equip and make disciples?

Adapting to Culture

As our culture has changed so have the ways we communicate our faith. Christianity has shifted from passing on truth through stories to using propositional sermons.

The Apostle Paul adapted his approach to sharing truth through reason rather than stories in order to reach a Greco-Roman culture that was steeped in philosophy. This approach has been adapted and updated to continue reaching literate cultures of the West.

The problem with this approach is that it is not effective in reaching people who learn best through images, stories, relationship and experiences rather than words and ideas.¹⁴

Rethinking Our Approach

This shift in communication causes us to consider...

- Is our method of communicating really helping people to take hold of God's truth - or is what we teach lost in just a few days or hours?
- Does the listener easily pass on our current method of communication? Is it reproducible? Is it helping us make disciples who make disciples? Does our teaching/preaching stop with the hearer?
- God's truth as found in the Word is transformational - do our methods complicate things rather than give people context, "handles" and insight?

6

Statistics compiled from: National Center for Education Statistics [nces.ed.gov], National Institute for Literacy [nifl.gov], Chronological Bible Storying [chronologicalbiblestorying.com], International Mission Board (Southern Baptist) [imb.org]

Life Community Leader Get-it-started Checklist:

If preferred, you can fill out this form online here: <http://www.ccpuyallup.com/forms/view/10067>

Life Community Leader: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

- I have gone through the Life Communities Training Manual.
- As a leader I have signed the Life Community Leadership Covenant.
- I have selected a core team of 3 or 4 other families/individuals that have agreed to commit to investing in one another’s growth for at least one year. They understand that this is a primary ministry in their life. Those people are:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
- I have established our group vision by completing, with the core team, the “Defining Questions” document.
- We have a host location that fits the unique structure of the group. Our location will be:

- I understand that I need to identify a co-leader within the first 4 months of the start of the LC.

“Jesus is an incredible gift to us. And as people in ministry we get the privilege of carrying that gift to the world. Our ministry can be likened to the box and wrapping paper and bow. Our size and style of wrapping paper and boxes can vary from ministry to ministry, but we’re all trying to deliver the same gift. Never lose sight of the fact that the box (your ministry) is not as valuable as the gift (Jesus). And the only reason the box exists is to deliver the gift. You have dedicated your life to the gift, not to the box.” – Lance Witt



Life Community Leader’s Report

If preferred, you can fill out this form online here: <http://www.ccpuyallup.com/forms/view/10074>

Leader's Name: _____ Date: _____

Name of Co-Leader or Leader in Training: _____

Leader's Phone: _____ Leader’s Email: _____

| List the names of the regular attenders in your group. | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

| List the names of any visitors you had this month | |
|---|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

How many times did you meet this month? _____

Please mark the following things that were accomplished this month

- As the leader, I was consistent in my personal devotional life, and I am growing.
- Our group was able to connect with a person(s) outside of the church
- We took good steps toward helping each other grow spiritually
- I can see evidence that we are growing as friends
- We had fun together!
- The kids in our group (if applicable) really felt included.
- We had an opportunity to meet a need(s) in the greater community.

Please share any additional info (concerns, questions, praises) you'd like us to know.

Sample

Life Community Defining Questions

See Acts 2:42-47

**** This is a sample of how this page might look after you have worked through it.**

Please answer these three questions as a core team. This will define your group vision. Answer the “main questions” under each section, using the sub-questions as a guide. Then consolidate the answers to the three main questions into one succinct paragraph that describes your group vision.

Outward - Time focused on those who don't yet know Jesus.

* **The Main Question:** How will your Life Community meet needs and serve those in need in the greater community?

- Who in our community is on your heart to serve?

We have a heart for the elderly. So our hope is to regularly find ways to serve them at their home and to learn wisdom from them.

- Who in your circle outside of the church would you love to see as a part of this Life Community, and how will you connect with them?

Ray & Joni (Chris' neighbors), JK (Lisa's gym), Mick & Jen (friends), Gary (used to attend church)

- Where are you already poised or connected in the community to share the good news?

South Hill Neighborhood, Gym, School Sports teams, Chamber of Commerce

Summary of Question 1:

Our heart is to connect with some of our neighbors and friends by keeping our gatherings comfortable enough to invite them to, and by regularly inviting them to times of fun together geared towards both adults and kids. Our outward mission together will be to regularly find ways to love and serve the elderly in our community.

Upward - Time focused on God

* **The Main Question:** How will your LC grow in Christ together?

- In what ways does this LC need to grow spiritually this year?

We need to be accountable to being in God's Word. We want to know His Word better. We need to discover our place of gifting and service in the body. We need to learn how to be godly parents.

- What will “doing life biblically” mean for this LC?

It will mean caring for each other outside of regular meetings. Praying for each other. Helping in times of need. Holding each other accountable when trust is established. Allowing us to practice and discover our gifts in the LC gatherings.

Summary of Question 2:

We will help each other grow in our time in and understanding of God's Word. We will learn how to be godly parents. We will help each other see our unique gifts and have opportunities to use those. We will care, help, challenge and pray for each other.

Inward – Time focused on those in the body of Christ.

* **The Main Question:** Why will your LC love being together?

- How will you intentionally practice the discipline of fun?

We'll keep our gatherings comfortable and non-threatening. We will have some fun activity once every 4-6 weeks including bowling, barbecues, going to a Mariner's game together, going out to dinner, going on a hike, hanging out at the lake on a sunny Saturday.

- What are some experiences your LC can share together as a family?

Meals together. Possibly doing a thanksgiving dinner together. Invite extended family of each member for a big party. Go to each other's kids events when possible.

- The early church broke bread and shared common meals together at times. What spiritually significant experiences will you share together?

Communion around a dinner table. Celebrate baptisms. Participate in baby dedications. Worship night.

Summary of Question 3:

We will have meals & parties together. We'll do something fun together on regular basis. We celebrate accomplishments of our kids, celebrate spiritual decisions, and celebrate Jesus.

Practical

*When will you meet, where will you meet, and how frequently?

We will meet every Thursday night at 6:30 for dinner at the home of Billy Ripken.

Everybody brings their own dinner.

*How will the kids be involved?

We plan on having them in the meeting with us as much as possible, and at times we will rotate doing childcare. We are hopeful that our kids will become friends!

*How will you purposely avoid the tendency for this to revert back to “just another meeting?”

We'll break it up with times of fun and times of service.

***** After completing the above Defining Questions, put it into a succinct vision statement. Below is an example of what it might look like:***

Group Vision:

Our heart is to connect with some of our South Hill, Puyallup neighbors and friends by keeping our gatherings comfortable enough to invite them to, and by regularly inviting them to times of fun together geared towards both adults and kids.

We will help each other grow in our time in and understanding of God's Word. We will learn how to be godly parents. We will help each other see our unique gifts and have opportunities to use those. We will care, help, challenge and pray for each other. We will have meals & parties together. We celebrate accomplishments of our kids, celebrate spiritual decisions, and celebrate Jesus.

We have a heart for the elderly. So our hope is to regularly find ways to serve them at their home and to learn wisdom from them.

Days: Every Thursday

Time: 6:30 – Bring dinner for your family.

Kids: Kids are welcome to come and participate!

Location: At the home of Billy Ripken. 102 Electric Avenue. Puyallup.