



Care Group Home Meetings

(Oct. 23, Oct. 30, Nov 6, Nov 13)
Suggested Time: 6:00 PM

Purpose of the 40 Days of Community Campaign

This campaign focuses on our God-engineered need to be spiritually involved with other believers, not only as a church, but particularly in small groups where we can make a difference in one another's lives. We'll not only learn about God's plan for us as a group of believers, but take steps to make our relationships with one another and our ministry together more effective.

Purpose of the 40 Days of Home Group Meetings

The additional time for classes is designed to allow the following (in order of importance):

- A time to meet informally in order to build relationships
- A continued time of discussion from Sunday morning

What is "Community"?

For the purpose of this study, we are focusing on the Christian community... how we relate together as believers in Christ, and how together we relate to the world to carry out God's purposes. One good way to define community is to look at the "one anothers" of the Bible. There are many great passages that instruct us in our relationship to other believers, such as Romans 12:10 which says, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Prior to the meeting

- Make arrangements for childcare either at the church or with teens in your class who may be able to help with child care in your home.
- Provide directions to your house for everyone who plans to attend.
- Review the notes for the meeting and make plans for discussion questions.
- Share the responsibility and have different individuals bring snacks each week.
- Attend the class and watch the video, so that you can lead an informed discussion.
- Make notes from the video and class discussion of any comments or questions you'd like to make during your small group time.

During the meeting

- Make everyone feel welcome, especially those who may be new to the class or care group.
- Don't call on anyone to answer a question, just let those who are comfortable answer.
- Start the actual sit-down discussions by 6:30 PM so that you have time to finish and pick children up by 8:00 PM.

Six lessons are provided for those groups who choose to meet the full six weeks.

Remember, the point of the discussions is not to get all the questions answered, but to use the discussion as an opportunity to encourage one another spiritually and to build biblical community in the group. You don't have to finish all the questions! Stop and pray when the time is right.

Week 1:

We're Compelled to Love God's Family

- **INTRODUCE:** Do an activity to help everyone get to know one another. Have person one in the circle (whoever you choose) to tell their name and favorite food. The person next to them (person 2) announces/repeats person 1's name and favorite food, and then shares the same information about themselves. Person #3 does this for the first two and then shares their information. Person number 10 will eventually have to remember everything about everybody, but the group can help them out, it's just a fun game to get to know everyone!
- **READ:** Have someone read John 13:34-35. Ask the group, 1) How has Christ loved us? and 2) How is this such a power sign to the world that Christ is real and that we are His followers?
- **TALK:** Very little time was allowed for discussion in class due to the Group Lifter. Use the questions in Lesson One (page 177), to lead your discussion for this hour.
- **PRAY:** Close in prayer after sharing requests, thanking God for the time to spend together and for putting you together as a group.

Week 2:

We're Commissioned to Reach Out Together

- **INTRODUCE:** Ask everyone to share their name and most fond childhood memory. (No one has to repeat it this week.)
- **READ:** Have someone read 2 Cor. 5:18-20. What are some ways we as a class can be involved in the job God gave us: reconciling others to Himself?
- **TALK:** Review the questions in the book for lesson 2 (page 185). Choose questions not covered in class to use during the follow up discussion.

Additional questions:

1. Why do you think many people are so quick to give money but so slow to really get involved in helping others?
 2. What do you think St. Francis meant when he said, "Preach the gospel, and if necessary use words?" How do most people measure up in each area... lifestyle and verbal witness?
 3. One comment in the lesson was that true worship leads us to service. Is that true in your life? Can you name a time this happened? Why does worship lead to service?
 4. What part of the 40 Days of Community study has impacted you the most? Why?
 5. What have you learned in your reading this week that meant a lot to you?
 6. Add any questions or comments you'd like to add.
- **PRAY:** Close in prayer after sharing requests, thanking God for the time to spend together and for putting you together as a group. Also pray for boldness in sharing the gospel.

Week 3:

We're Chosen to Fellowship Together

- **INTRODUCE:** Ask everyone to share 1) their name, 2) their favorite flavor of ice-cream, and 3) when the last time they had it was.
- **READ:** Have someone read Ephesians 1:5. Ask three people to choose the one word in that verse that says the most, then explain why. The next two people have to choose a different word.
- **TALK:** Review the questions in the book for lesson 3 (page 193). Choose questions not covered in class to use during the follow up discussion.

Additional questions:

1. What have you learned in your reading this week that meant a lot to you?
 2. This morning we talked about the atmosphere of love in our church. How would you evaluate the atmosphere of love in our class? What would make it better?
 3. What has been the best picture of love you've ever seen in any church?
 4. What are some things that can cause division in a church?
 5. What keeps people from being able to forgive one another in times of conflict?
 6. Who is your closest friend (other than Jesus or your spouse)? What bonds you to that person?
 7. How long should it take us to show love to a new person coming into the group? What are some ways we can make someone new feel part of the group?
- **PRAY:** Close in prayer after sharing requests. Ask God to bond you together as a small group and to help you meet one another's needs. Thank God for the time to spend together and for putting you together as a group.

Week 4:

We're Connected to Grow Together

- **INTRODUCE:** Ask everyone to share their name and to name the person who had had the most positive spiritual influence on their lives.
- **READ:** Have someone read Hebrews 10:24-25. Ask the group, "Why are we commanded to meet together?" (The answer is found on both sides of the command... to encourage one another.)
- **TALK:** Review the questions in the book for lesson 4 (page 199). Choose questions not covered in class to use during the follow up discussion.

Additional questions:

1. What have you learned in your reading this week that meant a lot to you?
 2. Ask if any group members have an accountability partner. Have them share how that relationship is helpful. Ask them how they got started.
 3. What does it mean to be spiritually mature? Make a group list of the things that have contributed most to individual's spiritual growth. Then rank them in order of importance.
 4. Which one of the three: patience, truthfulness, or forgiveness is most difficult for people today? Why do you think that is?
 5. Do you have any set goals for your spiritual life or development? Ask members to share some of their goals. What goals would you share with a new believer?
 6. How can we as a group help one another grow spiritually? How are we doing in the areas we just talked about?
 7. How old would you say you are in Christ, not in years, but in maturity? A newborn, a child, a teen, a young adult, middle age or senior adult?
- **PRAY:** Close in prayer after sharing requests. Ask God to help you truly encourage one another spiritually. Thank God for the time to spend together and for putting you together as a group.

Week 5:

We're Called to Serve Together

- **INTRODUCE:** Ask everyone to share the most memorable church activity they've ever had? (You might call attention to those that involved service.)
- **READ:** Have someone read Ephesians 4:11-12. Ask, "What do you think this passage means by "work of service"? Who is to do these works? Who is to train the workers?"
- **TALK:** Review the questions in the book for lesson 5 (page 207). Choose questions not covered in class to use during the follow up discussion.

Additional questions:

1. What have you learned in your reading this week that meant a lot to you?
 2. What does Mark 9:35 tell us about the humility required to be a servant?
 3. Ask group members to share how they are currently involved in service in the church?
Share that God has called us all to service in the body in some way.
 4. What are some areas in the church that you know need workers now. Why do you think these positions are hard to fill?
 5. Based on what you know about yourself, what is the most likely kind of job God will use you for in the church? (If they struggle, give suggestions: working with people or things, leading or following, out front or behind the scenes.)
 6. What type impact would the church have if everyone was involved in at least one area of service?
- **PRAY:** Close in prayer after sharing requests. Ask God to help each person find their place of service and for God to direct you as a group to find how you can serve together. Thank God for the time to spend together and for putting you together as a group.

Week 6:

We're Created to Worship Together

- **INTRODUCE:** Ask everyone to share their name and their favorite worship song or hymn. Tell why it is a favorite.
- **READ:** Have someone read Luke 10:25-27. What does it mean to love the Lord with all of our strength?
- **TALK:** Review the questions in the book for lesson 6 (page 217). Choose questions not covered in class to use during the follow up discussion.

Additional questions:

1. What have you learned in your reading this week that meant a lot to you?
 2. What are some helps and hindrances to your public worship?
 3. Do you worship in places other than church. Describe those experiences.
 4. We worship God through financial giving. Does anyone have a special word to share about how God has honored their commitment to give?
 5. What keeps us from taking time to worship (Bible Study and prayer) on a daily basis? What would the benefits be if we did? What do we need to change in order to be able to worship privately?
- **PRAY:** Close in prayer after sharing requests. Ask God to help you see Him as He truly is. Thank God for the time to spend together and for putting you together as a group.