

connect // STEP TWO

CELEBRATION CHURCH PURPOSE

We organize ourselves around these four steps:

1. _____ God
2. _____ in Community
3. _____ your Design
4. _____ with Purpose

WHY WE CONNECT IN COMMUNITY

We believe real life change happens in the context of authentic relationships, which is why we are a church made up of community groups. We also believe that it was God who first created community. When God created the earth and had created man, he said it was "not good for man to be alone..." (Genesis 2:18)

This applied then and we believe it applies today. Even Jesus surrounded himself with a community of like-minded believers who experienced all aspects of life with him.

Jesus created a community of 12 disciples who:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. _____ with him, | 5. _____ with him, |
| 2. _____ with him, | 6. _____ with him, |
| 3. _____ with him, | 7. _____ with him, |
| 4. _____ with him, | |

"And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach." Mark 3:14

"After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him." Luke 8:1

Jesus also made a specific promise to his disciples that he would be "with them" when they met together.

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:19-20

And then, when Jesus had died, the early church began forming a community and they worshiped in the temple, but personal ministry happened "house to house."

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity - all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved."
Acts 2:42-47 NLT

"And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: 'Jesus is the Messiah.'" Acts 5:42

Temple Courts is:

The purpose of our Sunday Celebrations is to gather together to _____ and to _____.

House to House is:

The purpose of community groups is to be in _____ with one another, to _____ for each other and to _____ life together.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE:

1. a place to _____ with others;
2. a place to _____ each other;
3. a place to _____ together;
4. a place to _____ to each other.

VALUES OF COMMUNITY GROUPS

The values of groups at Celebration Church can be summed up in the 5 R's of Community. These values drive the way Celebration Church desires groups to run. We strive to have each group exemplify these 5 values every time they meet.

The 5 R's are:

1. _____

In Community Groups, we want people to be themselves. We want all guests and leaders to be authentic and open.

2. _____

It's important to build relationships with those in your Community Group. As you meet week-to-week and do life together, you will find that you grow closer to each other.

3. _____

We are reliant on God to do the hard work of life transformation in each of our lives. What a group can do is encourage, support, guide, build up, and strengthen the members and allow God to do the transformative and restorative work.

4. _____

As groups grow beyond their capacity we ask them to reproduce themselves. Groups may do this by having one or two members split off to start their own group, or splitting into two and adding new members to each new group. The best way to help people connect with the family of Celebration is by growing and multiplying our community groups.

5. _____

Any host or leader is a risk-taker by default. Hosting or leading a group can be risky, but also incredibly rewarding. We encourage groups, for example, to take risks by opening themselves up to new members, stepping out in faith to serve those outside the church and to build relationships with people who may not see eye-to-eye with them.

FOUR TYPES OF COMMUNITY GROUPS

A Community Group is an intentional gathering of people who meet regularly. Since God designed us for relationships, we believe it is through the connections made in Community Groups that God will help us grow. People form groups around what matters in their lives.

Our Community Groups can be one of 4 types of gatherings:

1. _____ are designed to be run by anyone! In these groups, 2 - 12 people meet weekly in homes, coffee shops or any other location that allows people to meet, share and learn together, while having a follow-up discussion to the Sunday message using the video/questions provided.
2. _____ are groups of 6 - 12 people led by a trained and equipped Community Group Leader, often following a specific book or Bible study in a more formal environment with a heavy focus on discipleship. Community Group Leaders are given access to RightNow Media, an online source of over 15,000 Bible studies for students, families, leadership development, and much more.
3. _____ are large communities of people formed around a specific demographic (typically defined by age or gender), open to new members and guests at any time. Meetings are held primarily at the church, usually weekly or monthly. Home Groups are encouraged to form out of large Villages.

Examples include: Vivid / Impact Youth Ministry, The Collective Young Adults, Young at Heart Seniors Ministry, Oasis Women's Ministry, etc.

4. _____ are groups formed around a particular topic, next step and/or purpose. These groups are only open to a particular audience, intended to meet a specific need for those in the church and the community.

Examples include: Alpha, GriefShare, Financial Peace, etc.

IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Corinthians 12:4-27 NLT

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

"A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have."

ONE BODY WITH MANY PARTS

"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

"Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

"But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

"In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."

UNDERSTANDING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE:

Unique abilities given by _____, through the
_____, that enable believers to live like
_____, and use their gifts to minister to _____.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT:

1. _____

We all have natural abilities that we've learned from those around us regardless of Christian faith. Many times our natural abilities and strength are redeemed by the Lord to become spiritual gifts.

2. _____

We are all called to have character and our gifts should produce the nature of Jesus Christ in each person. A person should not say he has the "gift of peace" when we are all encouraged to develop that characteristic.

3. _____

Spiritual gifts often lead to titles or positions but a person may have the gift without the role or the role without the gift. Regardless, we should serve whenever we are given the opportunity.

4. _____

Spiritual gifts are endowments given by God to His people for accomplishing His purpose on the earth.

Spiritual Gifts are given for the _____.

If you are not in community, you are potentially robbing other Christians of the blessing of your gift!

NEXT STEPS

1. Join or host a community group.

Browse our online directory of groups at www.celebrationchurchbrant.com or sign up at Guest Services to join or host a community group.

2. Review the list of Spiritual Gifts in scripture.

Review the list of spiritual gifts in scripture and pray that God will reveal your spiritual gifts to you.

3. Join us for Step Three of Growth Track.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN SCRIPTURE

ADMINISTRATION

The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to steer the body toward the accomplishment of goals and directives by planning, prioritizing and organizing tasks for optimum efficiency.

APOSTLESHIP

The gift of apostleship is the divine strength or ability to pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing and training.

CRAFTSMANSHIP

The gift of craftsmanship is the divine strength or ability to design, build and work with your hands, exhibiting wisdom, ability and expertise in all kinds of crafts.

DISCERNMENT

The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to identify falsehood and to distinguish between right and wrong motives, situations and spirits of good or evil.

EVANGELISM

The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help lead non-Christians to faith, often being prompted by the Holy Spirit to witness in impromptu circumstances.

EXHORTATION

The gift of exhortation is the divine strength or ability to encourage others through written or spoken word, offering the hope of Christ in dealing with life's difficulties.

FAITH

The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to trust God for unseen, supernatural results, while communicating optimism in the power of God to work in all circumstances.

GIVING

The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to give with great joy, freely, above a tithe, for the purpose of strengthening the Kingdom. They also may inspire others to give.

HEALING

The gift of healing is the divine strength or ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer and by the laying-on of hands for the healing of physical and mental illnesses.

HELPS / SERVICE

The gift of helps is the divine strength or ability to proactively accomplish tasks, often going unrecognized, with a humble "servant's heart" and keen sensitivity to the needs around them.

HOSPITALITY

The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to create warm environments for others in places such as your home, office or church.

INTERCESSION

The gift of intercession is the divine strength or ability to petition God on behalf of other people or purposes, with a supernatural burden to pray, often for long periods of time.

KNOWLEDGE

The gift of knowledge is the divine strength or ability to speak words or a specific revelation, as revealed by God, to bring clarity or understanding to a person or situation.

LEADERSHIP

The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to inspire and influence others at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision or idea.

MERCY

The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to demonstrate empathy, sharing the feelings and hurts of others, in order to kindly care for those who are hurting.

MIRACLES

The gift of miracles is the divine strength or ability to perform powerful acts that alter the ordinary course of nature in a supernatural way through prayer and divine direction.

MISSIONARY

The gift of missionary is the divine strength or ability to minister to and share the Gospel with other people-groups, cultures and nationalities, often living in that culture or nation.

MUSIC / CREATIVE ARTS

The gift of music/creative arts is the divine strength or ability to use music, drama, writing, painting, and other forms of creative expression to help others experience and worship God.

PASTOR / SHEPHERD

The gift of pastor/shepherd is the divine strength or ability to take the responsibility of caring for the spiritual protection, welfare and growth of a group of believers.

PROPHECY

The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to boldly speak and bring clarity to scriptural and doctrinal truth, in some cases foretelling God's plan or will.

TEACHING

The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to clearly communicate God's Word while taking great joy and satisfaction in seeing others learn and apply these truths.

TONGUES (and Interpretation)

The gift of tongues is the divine strength or ability to pray, speak or sing in a heavenly language to encourage your spirit to commune with God. When expressed publicly, it may also be an evangelistic tool or used to receive a word from God when appropriately accompanied by an interpreter (one with the gift of interpretation).

WISDOM

The gift of wisdom is the divine strength or ability to apply the truths of Scripture in a practical way, imparting truth to other believers producing transformed hearts and lives.