



The Resolved Church

C|G community groups

"Community groups are the central place where the gospel gets worked out in our lives together as a church and where non-Christian friends get introduced to our love for one another."

Gospel Community Praxis

our Meal

- WE EAT TOGETHER
- Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 10:31; Rev 3:21
- Theological Implications: Dining together is a picture of God's glory among us.

our Lives

- WE TALK TOGETHER
- Ex. 18:22-23; Mt 28:18-20; Phil. 1:27; 1 Th. 2:18
- Theological Implications: Discussing together is a picture of Jesus' gospel working in us.

our City

- WE PLAN TOGETHER
- Jer 29:7; Jn 20:21; Acts 1:8;2:1
- Theological Implications: Determining together is a picture of the Holy Spirit's empowerment for mission.

The Resolved Church C|G FAQ: *Common Questions and Answers*

What is a Community Group?

The purpose of community groups is to foster growth and health in our relationship with God, our Christian brothers and sisters, our neighbors, and our non-Christians friends. Community groups are the main place where our church functions, exists, and acts like a family. In community groups we eat together, talk about life together, pray together and serve our city together.

Why are Community Groups so Important?

Truly being a part of a church means participating both in our Sunday gatherings and community groups. Sundays are the time when we celebrate in worshipping our risen Lord Jesus together through singing, hearing the preaching of God's Word, and partaking in communion. Smaller groups are necessary for the building up of the body in our relationships and life together. Both gatherings, the big and the small, meet different needs in the spiritual health and life of the Church.

Is a Community Groups like a Bible Study?

Community groups are the place, where in the context of maturing relationships, we challenge one another to drive God's Word deeply into our lives. Some groups will follow discussion questions from Sunday's sermon, go through an approved book or video discussion series together, or have a teaching and training week addressing an area the community needs to grow in. In all cases, the Bible is central and geared toward personal life application and transformation rather than intensive Bible teaching.

What does a Typical Community Group Meeting Involve?

Our community groups vary from one to the next, but all follow our basic format of having three main parts: our Meal, our Lives, and our City. Having a meal together is a great way to build friendships and get to know one another better. Discussing our lives is when we really break out the Bible and talk about how it is effecting who we are. Loving our city reflects the missional nature of our groups. Each group has a missional aspect to it where it looks for ways to serve the city and the people in it in some sort of project done together. Our community groups all end by taking time to pray for one another, showing that we are a people who are in need, in need of God and each other.

Do I have to be a Member of The Resolved Church to Attend a Community Group?

No. If you consider The Resolved Church your home, you are welcome to join a community group before becoming a member. However, we do stress the importance of becoming a member, not only because we believe it is biblical but also because community groups are intended for those who call The Resolved Church home and for the friends and neighbors we are trying to reach together. Our community groups are not intended for those who are attempting to supplement their involvement at another church, which is a disservice to both churches. Membership is required to be a community group leader or host.

I'm not/don't know if I'm a Christian, can I Attend a Community Group?

Yes, please do. Joining a community group is one of the best ways for you to find out more about Jesus and to see what Christians are like. If you have questions then there are people there to gently help you process through them.

Are my Children Welcome to Attend a Community Group?

Yes, church is a family and we love families getting together. It is sometimes chaotic and messy but very healthy for families to see how other Christians families act and deal with situations with their children.

Do you have Community Groups for college age/singles/young-married/married with children/empty nesters?

We treasure the value of relationships between people in various life stages, a healthy church learns and grows most by interacting with people from across the racial, age, and life stage spectrum. For this reason we intentionally encourage our groups to reflect such unity in diversity.

How Big is each Community Group?

Our groups are designed and intended to be small enough for people to get to know each other. When a group grows to 15 or more people we strongly encourage a new group to be started out of that original group.

What if I cannot Attend Regularly?

Consistent participation is very important for the health and stability of the groups. Due to the effect on the group as a whole, a minimum expectation is that individuals should attend more than half the meetings. Challenging schedules are something many people deal with and we encourage individuals and/or families to make community group a priority in the forming of their weekly schedule.

What if I've Tried a Community Group and it wasn't a Good Fit?

We recognize you may need to visit more than one community group before you find the right fit. There is always an adjustment period in getting used to a new group. We encourage people to simply pick a group and stick it out for at least two months before trying another group.

What if there isn't a Community Group near where I live?

It is our goal as a church to plant community groups in as many of the 100 plus different neighborhoods in San Diego. We encourage people to be a part of a community group that is close to them and if not use the ease of travel in San Diego to be involved in a group for a time until one is started in your neighborhood or you are ready to host one there yourself.

GUIDE FOR LEADERS

The Practicals: time allotments, discussion questions, and plans.

our Meal

- 30 minutes (free time for friendship/getting to know one another).
- Provided by host/leader hospitality unless otherwise determined by the group.
- Transition to "our Lives" prompted by host/leader.

our Lives

- 60 minutes (processing the Gospel and God's Word together)
- Bible time = Reading a passage and discussion it, either use of Sunday sermon discussion questions (provided weekly on Cobblestone), a small group teaching/discussion aid, or a training developed by the leader or someone in the group.
- Good discussion questions: How is this connected to the Gospel? How does/will this relate/affect to my life, my church, my city?
- Transition to "our City" prompted by host/leader.

our City

- 30 minutes (15 min. for discussion and 15 min for prayer)
- Discussion: Are there needs to be met in our group, things we can do for our church, or ways we can minister to San Diego in order to be the gospel city in the city.
- Plans: Group city mission projects, group planning, special needs, and vision/planning for community group multiplication.
- Prayer: take prayer requests and pray for one another.

Facilitator Guidelines

1. Enable whole group participation.
 - Don't allow one person to capitalize on the conversation.
 - Look to include the quiet person.
2. Always assume a non-Christian person is present in the way you act and talk.
 - Help breed an atmosphere which expects and welcomes pre-Christians.
 - Create a context church members will want to bring their pre-Christian friends to.
3. Press for people to open up honestly.
 - Encourage people to get real with who they are and where they are in their life.
 - Do not allow arguing with heightened emotional engagements to take place. Direct people to talk to one another alone first if that occurs (Mt 18:15-20)
4. Honor the Bible.
 - Put a concern for God and his glory as being of first importance in all things.
 - Help people understand the difference between what the Bible means (exegesis) and how we apply it to our lives (sanctification). Refer to Walt Russell's article "What it Means to Me" for this (available on CG leaders Cobblestone group).
5. Do your best to stick to the time allotments. This is important for house hosts and those who need to be able to regularly commit to a time frame.