



# Community: Starting Well

## Part One: Show Up



### Leader Check-in

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What do you hope to gain from this study? What about this study interests you the most?

### Discover

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**Read Matthew 22:34-40.** What comes to mind as you think about these verses? What in this Scripture creates the foundation for community?

What would happen if we truly began to live out these two commands?

What do you think about Andy's statement that, "You can't grow spiritually unless you are connected relationally"?

### Fully Own

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What holds people back from living these commands out?

The video mentioned three commitments to overcome the first few hurdles to developing community: Show Up, Be Real, and Join In. How will you practically live out those commitments throughout this study?

How big is your sphere of influence? With whom are you personally connected? Develop some ways to expand your sphere.

### Challenge

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Spend the rest of your time together answering the following questions and learning a bit more about each other.

1. What would you like to be known for by those closest to you?
2. What would constitute a "perfect" day for you?
3. What do you value most in a friendship?
4. How close and warm is your family? How did your upbringing contribute to your faith?
5. Share the greatest hurdle you have had to overcome in your life.
6. Describe the most spiritual experience you have had to date.

Share one thing people don't usually find out about you until they have known you for a while.





# Community: Starting Well

## Part Two: Pursue God



### Leader Check-in

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What did everyone learn from the message this weekend?

### Discover

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When you think of God, what comes to mind? What does a relationship with God look like?

**Read Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, and 21:1-7.** How do these snapshots of Abraham's life demonstrate the three ingredients of a relationship as mentioned in the video: Time, Transparency, and Trust?

From your experience, how does God develop relationships with people today using these three relational ingredients: Time, Transparency, and Trust?

**Read Luke 15:11-22.** How does this passage reveal God's pursuit of us with Time, Transparency, and Trust?

### Fully Own

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What do you think of the statement, "Before God can do something through you; God has to do something in you"?

How do both the stories in Genesis and Luke demonstrate this idea?

In what ways do we open ourselves up to God so that He can do something in us? What would a relationship with God look like built on Time, Transparency, and Trust?

How can you be more open with God and His plan for your life? How can your group be more open to God's instruction? What can you do to better connect with God?

How will you help one another live this out over the next few weeks?

### Challenge

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Develop three disciplines for using time, transparency, and trust to connect with God and your community. Commit to following these disciplines in the next week.





# Community: Starting Well

## Part Three: Join In



### Leader Check-in

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What was it like following the three disciplines this week? Any stories of success or failure?

### Discover

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How does culture draw people together? How does it isolate people? What are the effects of both?

How do you see our culture moving towards isolation? How are the American churches moving towards isolation?

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-27.** From these verses, why is it not possible for any one person to be the fully functioning body of Christ?

Why would God only give a few gifts to each person? How does humility affect this passage?

### Fully Own

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How do people hide their true selves or mislead others so that people think more highly of them? Why do we do this? How does this hurt true connection and trust?

In the video, Clay says that, "It is God's plan to grow you through others and to grow others through you." How do you see this happening? What must change for this growth to succeed?

Starting a trusting relationship can be scary, but how do you think being transparent and trusting could change and grow this group?

How can you expand the group beyond the agreed upon weekly meeting time?

### Challenge

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Have the leader set a timer for two minutes. Ask for a volunteer to start this exercise and for everyone else to be ready when their time comes. Go around the room and have people share their story in two minutes or less. When someone finishes, ask him or her this question, "Why did you share what you shared?"





# Community: Starting Well

## Part Four-Six: Be Real



### Leader Check-in

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Whom do you most trust? How did you get to that point? Why is that relationship important to you?

### Discover

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**Read Joshua 4:20-24.** Why was it important for generations of Israelites to remember the story of the crossing of the Jordan and the Red Sea?

How do these stories connect the Israelites to God and each other? How does the power of stories connect people today? How does the power of story break barriers and develop faith?

Consider these questions as you begin to develop deep relationships with the people in your group.

- Who are the people who have most influenced me?
- What are my greatest successes? What obstacles did I overcome to achieve those successes?
- What are my greatest failures? What did I learn from those failures?
- In what ways has God influenced my relationships, successes, and failures?

### Fully Own

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**Read Hebrews 10:24-25.** How is this passage teaching us to be real? How can you promote love and good works within your Life Group community?

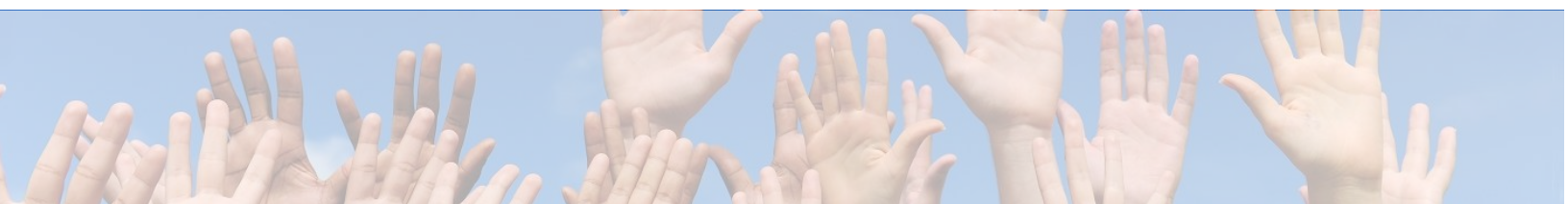
**1 Thessalonians 5:9-11.** According to these verses, why should we encourage one another? What does “build each other up” mean?

### Challenge

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You may have noticed from the heading for today, that there will be no videos for sessions five and six. Instead, we ask that you start with a short time for connection and prayer, and then jump into the time for sharing stories. As always, be encouraging and listen well. The level of trust felt within the group will influence the level of personal transparency.

What you share in the group; stays in the group.





# Community: Starting Well

## Part Seven: Be the Church



### Leader Check-in

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What has been the best part of meeting together so far?

### Discover

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**Read John 13:1-18.** Why are Jesus's actions for his disciples counter-cultural to our society? Why do you think Peter had such a strong reaction?

What are other ways that Jesus demonstrated a life of service? How did Jesus's example change the disciples after the resurrection?

**Read Acts 2:41-42.** How did the first church behave after Jesus left this earth? Compare and contrast the description of this first church with how we describe the church today.

How does it feel to know that your Life Group is a better representation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century church than most of our weekend services?

### Fully Own

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**Read Philippians 2:1-4.** How has your group grown closer through the time, transparency, and trust shared during this series?

How have you seen serving others change the relationships between those involved?

What would it mean for followers of Christ to live out Jesus's example of service to others? How does serving change our relationship with God?

What small acts of kindness affect you the most or make you happier throughout the day? Make a list of subtle ways you can serve those in your community.

### Challenge

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Spend the rest of the group time discussing ways in which you can serve together soon or even in your next regularly scheduled meeting time. You may find that Central is planning a service project soon, you may choose a ministry at Central to serve, or you might just want to serve an outside need through a connection in your group.





# Community: Starting Well

## Part Eight: Be Together



### Leader Check-in

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Review your service project and share insights and stories.

### Discover

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**Read Matthew 28:18-20 and James 2:18-19.** How would you describe the difference between believing in a God and being a disciple of God?

How does Matthew and James (the brother of Jesus) describe some of the differences between knowledge of God and discipleship?

Why do you think it is important to put faith into action?

How can someone have faith without action? On a scale from 1-10 how would you rate that person's faith? Where would you rate your own faith?

### Fully Own

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**Read Hebrews 10:24-25.** Why do you think it is important for followers of Jesus to continue to meet even after we have given our life to Jesus?

Why are both worship services and Life Groups important parts of being a disciple of Jesus?

What are other aspects of connecting with Jesus as a disciple are important, but not necessarily covered in the worship or Life Group experiences?

How can your life group help one another to grow in these areas?

### Challenge

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Make a list of commitments that line up with the description of the church in Acts. Have your leader write a short contract/covenant for all the group members to sign and commit to following. Keep this covenant in a place where the group can consistently reflect on it. Watch as God uses your group to spread the good news of Jesus to all those around you.

