

GOSPEL COMMUNITY

PILLARS

PILLARS

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

We are called to live for God's glory, to build each other up in Christ, to love each other, rebuke each other, teach each other! This is what our Gospel Communities strive to be, brothers and sisters living life together under God.

But how do we do this? How do we ensure we are equipping each other for this mission. How do we identify the areas in our lives that need attention, and what does it look like when we are flourishing?

Pillars help us think through the foundations of our lives in Christ. We explore each pillar in 3 stages:

Identifying: What are we looking for? How do we uncover this area with each other and as a Gospel Community.

Equipping: What can we do to improve, to grow, and learn more and be encouraged in this area.

Flourishing: What does it look like when we do this well. What should we expect the fruit of this labour to look like

Our prayer is that these pillars give you some foundations to guide your Gospel Community. They are by no means the full picture, but a perfect starting point for us to think critically about our lives under Christ.



FAMILY

Page 4



MISSION

Page 6



DISCIPLESHIP

Page 8



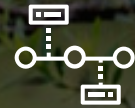
SERVING

Page 10



LEADERSHIP

Page 12



PLANNING

Page 14



EMPOWERING

Page 16



PARTNERING

Page 17

FAMILY

What is family?

Nurturing the family life and identity of your GC. This includes the particular families within it, and how they interact with your GC family as a whole. Looking at relationships, parenting, marriage, emotional health, physical health, crisis, healthy rhythms, and love.

IDENTIFY

- How's your GC functioning as a family?
- What actions will you commit to, in order to express your love for one another as brothers and sisters?
- What's your rhythm of praying for each other? Together and individually? Eg. When you meet, 'What's your greatest need right now?' then pray for that.
- How will you give good time to share each others stories so that you know each other deeply?
- What meals will you share with one another and how often?
- What ways will you intentionally celebrate with one another?
- How will you celebrate communion together? Sing and worship together?
- What regular rhythms of recreating and Sabbath will you commit to?
- How will you celebrate the gospel in your GC - regularly and all the time? Communion, testimony, speaking the gospel to one another, etc.
- What study or training do you need to do in order to grow in your family identity?
- How are individual families functioning within GCs, and as a family separate to your GC?
- Does your GC have appropriate time dedicated to sharing deeply about family, life, health etc?
- If you're finding it difficult to gain insight with an individual you could seek out some one-on-one time with that person. Focus on building the relationship and trust before enquiring about sensitive topics
- How are the marriages going?
- What are the key needs of each person?
- What are the life stages people are at? How can we support them?
- What does their week look like?
- How's father/motherhood going?
- Is there something the pastoral care team or elders can help you with?
- Are there people who need to go through a Redemption group?
- Does anyone need a mentor?

FAMILY

EQUIP

- 'Flourishing in the Family Identity' - website document
- 'Loving One Another' - website document
- 'How to Design Your GC > Creating Family' - Soma BM's resource
- Missional Community Leaders Field Guide > Shepherding FAQ's - website document
- One aspect is that people often haven't been well parented. The core is basically parenting the others. A lack of parenting is

a key reason GCs need to exist, because shared life & family is how health is modelled and is the context in which it's taught. The GC core needs to overlap enough (with each other and new Christians and say 12 non-Christians) to have momentum with both discipleship and mission.

FLOURISH

- Individual families interfacing well with the whole GC
- Your GC including new people and singles well
- Able to bring in help for pastoral care
- Connecting well with 1 or more other GCs
- GC is a natural base to bring friends

MISSION

What is mission?

Helping your GC identify the who, what, and when of your mission. Each member working towards Gospel fluency. Identifying next steps. Praying.

IDENTIFY

- Which people will be your mission focus? (recommend 12)
- What's your plan for extraordinary prayer for your mission? (eg prayer meetings, Anchor's 5 for 5)
- How will we invite others to join us at the table? How often?
- When will you celebrate with those you're on mission to? How?
- How will you bless those you're being sent to, in word or deed?
- How will you play and rest with those God is sending you to?
- What specific things are you doing, or planning, that will facilitate sharing the gospel?
- Do people know how to share the gospel? Do they know the process that allows a natural space for the gospel to be shared?
- Is there a space in your time together for individuals to share personal next steps for mission and to be prayed over?

EQUIP

- 5 for 5 document (Anchor resource)
- Sharing your own story and God's story resources
- Rehearse the gospel at your family meal
- 'Evangelism in a skeptical age,' Sam Chan
- Gospel Fluency
- Apologetics - Keller
- Which resources might be helpful? Are there others? What's the next thing for your group?
- What studies do you need to do to grow in your identity as missionaries

MISSION

FLOURISH

- Your GC encouraging individuals in personal mission, resourcing and supporting them
- Your GC working together in prayer and activity for the good of particular individuals or groups or don't know Jesus
- Your GC providing specific opportunities, at least every term for bringing new people into the life of your GC
- Enough missional engagement to see missional traction
- Missional prayer occurs naturally and spontaneously within the life of your GC (A sign of health)
- People report speaking about Jesus and sharing the gospel from time to time, not just befriending people
- The GC makes a considerable contribution to faith
- The group takes part in discipling new converts

DISCIPLESHIP

What is discipleship?

GC members living as disciples together, and encouraging each other in their corporate and personal discipleship. Prayer, bible reading / studying, worship, thanksgiving, fasting, head, heart & hand, learning, sabbath, Christ-likeness, sin, confession, love.

IDENTIFY

- In what ways do we need to grow spiritually this year?
- What studies, training or reading will you do?
- Do people know how to interpret the bible?
- What is their biblical literacy like?
- Does everyone have a strong understanding of the Gospel?
- Is the gospel prominent in your life together?
- Is there frequent prayer? What rhythm will you have?
- Has everyone been through the Story of God?
- Has everybody been through some kind of formal discipleship course like, 'What on earth am I here for?'
- In what areas of life does your GC need to grow, re their belief of the gospel? Where do they need to repent and be forgiven?
- What life skills need to be taught?
- Is everyone pulling their weight in serving?
- Where do you/they need to step into obedience?
- Is anyone in your GC not yet baptised? Next steps for this?
- Is everyone in a DNA? Next steps?
- Are you checking in with your DNA leaders? Are they equipped? Are there any concerns?
- Has everyone shared their story in DNA and/or to the core and/or to the family
- Is everyone who is a disciple, discipling someone? Make disciples that make disciples.

DISCIPLESHIP

EQUIP

- Missional Community Leaders Field Guide
 - website document - see Shepherding FAQ's (eg How do I give Godly counsel?)
- What on Earth am I here for? - Rick Warren
- DNA Guides
- Relevant Sermon Series
- Study Guides

FLOURISH

- A sense of being disciples together
- Mutual encouragement
- Intentionally putting more and more of our lives under Jesus' Lordship
- Spontaneous discussion re the work of God in your lives
- Individuals acknowledging next steps in their personal growth
- Members appreciate the role the GC plays in growing them to maturity
- The maturity of the GC is evident in times of crisis
- The GC is regular and involved at the Gathering
- Everyone is in a DNA

SERVING

What is serving?

Awareness of personal gifts, concrete service, trying different tasks, roles and responsibilities. Laying down our lives and picking up our cross. Loving our neighbour as ourself.

IDENTIFY

- What would good news look like to the people you are sent to?
- What needs beautifying in your missional focus?
- How could you demonstrate Jesus' reign in tangible ways to those God is sending you to?
- What specific projects or events do you need to accomplish or get involved in to demonstrate the restorative work of the kingdom of God?
- How will you serve the disconnected or under-resourced among the people you are sent to?
- How can you encourage your GC to see their work or jobs as worship of God?
- How can you serve together and individually during our weekly Gathering?
- How will you lead your group through Spirit-led giving to our church?
- How can we commit to help one another grow in serving in light of our unique gifts?
- How will we intentionally share what we have with one another and those in need?
- What studies do you need to do to grow in your identity as servants?

EQUIP

- Stuart's 'Gifts' sermon series
- Dave's talk on empowering leadership
- Talking to individuals about areas where they could use their gifts
- Discussion with church leaders around possibilities for service in Gathering and on various leadership teams

SERVING

FLOURISH

- People understand the link between their specific gifts and the service they offer
- People link their gifts/serving to the mission of their GC and to the wider church
- People value the gifts and service of others
- Head, heart and hands are synchronised
- People experience joy in serving
- People are laying down their lives for the sake of others

LEADERSHIP

What is leadership?

Helping you lead your GC, and helping you develop your leadership in church and life more generally. Awareness of your giftings, strengths and weaknesses, direction, faith and life leadership, multiplication, goals, teamwork, prayer, and following the Spirit.

IDENTIFY

- What isn't working?
- What problems can you foresee in relationships or patterns of meeting?
- Who can assist you in these areas?
- Refer back to the first 4 - Family, Mission, Discipleship, Serving - which is your group strongest in/weakest in? What would you like to see happen in the next year/3-month in your GC? Goals? (Note all this for planning)
- Do you know what your basic role is? (Gardener, Catalyst, Example)
- Do you know what the basic expectations of a leader are?
- How are you sharing leadership roles with others? (eg missional, shepherding)
- Are you praying each week for each person as their leader?
- What areas do you feel like you need to grow in to lead your community better?
- Where do you need to grow in knowledge? Theology, issues, aspects of GC's, etc? Next steps?

LEADERSHIP

EQUIP

- What Do Leaders Do? Leadership Commitment — How You Practically Lead 2 hours a week—in addition to your participation in the missional community.
- 1 hour praying and processing. As you will likely see a lot of time is spent thinking about and praying for the people in your community. You are also asked to think about the current state of your community and where God is leading you forward.
- 1 hour preparing or planning. This might mean preparing for discussions, planning meetings, planning missional engagement, etc. This will also likely look like time with coaches and leadership meetings.
- ‘Missional Community Leader Discipleship Questions’ - Communities on Mission Starter
- ‘Leadership reflection - How do you depend on the Spirit?’ - Communities on Mission Starter
- GC Leader expectations doc.

FLOURISH

- You’re aware of your gifts and calling to GC leadership
- You’re comfortable in core tasks, and aware of your current leadership growth areas.
- You’re both responsive to the group and proactively leading the group
- You draw in the strengths of others to aid in growing the group
- You’re prayerful for growth and alert to God’s leading

PLANNING

What is planning?

Incorporating learning from the previous core areas. Scheduling, 3-monthly plan, healthy DNAs, mission, and goals setting, projects, reviewing, and heartbeat methodology.

IDENTIFY

- Plan with your core group - Have you got a core of 4-6 who are committed to live a certain way together, and take responsibility together, for the sake of the Kingdom of God? Who are they?
- Have you formed a 3-monthly plan with your core? What is it? How's it going? What's the next one? Have you evaluated your last 3-monthly plan?
- Are you doing lots of things you love doing (as this is important)?
- Have you got enough mission going on, that will allow you to get traction and see fruit?
- How are you sharing leadership with the rest of the core? What roles do they have? What are they organising/hosting?
- Are there some longer-term goals or events?
- Know who are the family (Christians not in the core), and who are the mission (12 or so non-Christians you are reaching out to) - how will you engage family members in what you have planned?
- What season of mission are you in? Cultivating, sowing, harvesting?

PLANNING

EQUIP

- Use heartbeat methodology to balance your output and input for your group
- Example of a monthly cycle
 - 2x Sunday night family meal (5-8pm)
 - 2x DNA – women 1st/3rd Wed (3hours), men 2nd/4th Wed (2 hours)
 - Wed morning play dates (park)
 - 2nd Friday – games night
 - 3rd Saturday – brunch
 - 4th Friday – movie/beach night
- Gathering most Sundays (85%)
- Notes for above monthly cycle
- Higher number of missional things (say 4 each month) helps bear more fruit in terms of mission and discipleship
- The core decides this together, no one forces them to do this
- Not everyone goes to all the missional things (but that is worked out)
- Different couples in the core organise different aspects of the mission – one couple runs monthly games night, one organises the monthly brunch, one organises the monthly movie/beach night
- Knowing the schedule is crucial, and then saying 'no' to other things that come up
- It's very important to realise this is the stuff they like doing!
- Notes for annual cycle
 - Going away
 - Building into the wider church life - events, working Bees, Songwriter showcase, trainings
 - Using Christmas and Easter missionally (aim for locally)
 - Dovetail group teaching to preaching series where appropriate
- Camp

FLOURISH

- Good reviews and clear 3-monthly plans
- The core is energised, and the 'family' is engaged
- Mission is happening
- You're doing heaps of things you love
- The GC-Gathering relationship is synergistic

EMPOWERING

What is empowering?

Focussing on individuals. Identifying gifts, maturing their faith. How to direct that, or grow that. Invitations to step up. Looking for next leaders. Serving. Capacity to love.

IDENTIFY

- Do you know the story of each person?
- Can you identify their discipleship goals?
- What are the implications of their life-stage and unique life situation for their growth and ministry?
- Is everyone actively involved in the life of the community?
- Do they get to use their gifts?
- Are you helping them work out their gifts and how to use them?
- How can we link people's gifts with others' needs?
- Where are people heading? What's their calling as an individual above and beyond this group? How can we help them move forward in this?
- What leadership potential does each person have? How can you help them to experiment in that area?
- What further training do they need?
- Could they become GC leaders? When and how?

EQUIP

- Look back over previous equipping, what specific ones relate to a particular person/people?

FLOURISH

- Individuals in GC are growing in their ministries together
- People are able to identify growth within themselves - where they have given up sin and are living more for Christ
- Potential leaders are identified, encouraged, trained and deployed. New GCs are formed through this process

PARTNERING

What is partnering?

The bigger picture. You, and your GC partnering with other leaders, GCs, and the whole church. Creating a healthy, growing church in partnership together.

IDENTIFY

- Do you know where the church is up to in its wider life - preaching series, new GCs starting, major activities?
- Do you communicate/celebrate news of the wider church?
- Do you communicate your GCs insights to church leadership?
- Can your GC help with some need/opportunity in the life of the church?
- Are you aware of new people coming to the Gathering who could be potential members of your group?
- Are you working with other GC leaders to explore what training you need, could ask for, could run together?
- Are you helping your GC understand the financial needs of our church?
- Do you bring good news stories and helpful ideas from your training to your group?
- Do you have a leadership apprentice you are training up?
- Have you helped your group connect with different generations in our church?
- Are you flexible and able to adjust your group to meet wider church needs?
- Do you pray for other GC's, the Gathering, the elders?

EQUIP

- GC Leaders meetings
- Meet-ups with GC Coordinator
- Participating in GC Launch Day
- Pastoral Care Group input

PARTNERING

FLOURISH

- GC is agile and focuses on the bigger missional vision of the church
- New people are incorporated through the Gathering as well as GCs
- New leaders are identified, trained and deployed in GC leadership and other ministries
- See a steady growth in new converts and other members
- Funding provided to sustain this growth
- Communication throughout the church is healthy and sufficient
- There's a deep awareness of God's Spirit working among all of us