

COMMUNITY (SMALL GROUP)

LESSON 2: What is a church community supposed to be?

Objective: To help students explore and learn more about God's intentionality and design for community in the context of a faith community. Many of our City Life students consider City Life to be their church. This is significant, but we also want to expand their perspective to the bigger church so that as youth and young adults that can find purpose and connection in a broader church family!



TIME: 60-120 minutes.

GAME:

Option 1: Human knot (larger small groups)! Have everyone stand in a circle. First lay out ground rules and the purpose. The purpose is to unknot all of the hands/arms without disconnecting any hands. Before hands are connected, the group needs to discuss and agree upon 1-2 people in the group who are allowed to talk and give instruction. Those people are also given the option to pass their leadership role to someone else when they are feeling stuck in the process. Then everyone is to connect their hands with two different people on either side of the circle and start the process.

Note: you can do this more than once and have different people take turns leading. At the end give them time to discuss what was hard about this process and what they learned. Also, give shout outs to those who were good leaders, followed instructions, kept their cool, etc.

Option 2 Activity: Give each student a paper and pen and tell them to write what they think their talents and skills are (what they think they are good at). Then take turns going around the circle and have them read theirs and allow the group to comment and affirm those things. Some might add something that your student didn't even see in themselves. If you can write these down and save the papers for another time or to post somewhere to affirm your students in who they are and what they bring to your community!

ACTIVITY:

Assign the following verses to your students or leaders to take turns reading. Make sure everyone has their own Bible and can read along. Start by finding all the verses, marking them and then reading. Before reading, go around the circle and ask each person to share:

What do you think church is?

What has your experience with church been like?

What do you think church is supposed to be like?

READ

Note: read these passages ahead of time. If you know this is too deep or too much content for your group, pick only 1-2 verses. Or choose different passages all together. There are so many!

*Ephesians 1:5 - How we become a part of the church community/family!

*1 Corinthians 12:12-27 - The church community connected!

*Acts 2:42-47 - The first church community purpose!

*Matthew 22:36-40 - How each person is supposed to live and be in community (as a member of the church)!

Pay attention to what the verse is talking about?

Who do you think this verse was written to (have the leader do this research ahead)?

What was the meaning of this verse for the people (the church) in that time?

What is the meaning of this verse for us (the church) now?

Is there a way that you would rephrase the verse so it makes more sense now in our world or neighborhood?

Suggested field trip: if your students aren't connected in a church, maybe take them on a Sunday to visit one together and then go out to lunch after in order to debrief their experience in light of what they now understand the church community to be according to the Bible!

