



CITY CHURCH

City Planning Leaders Guide

Week 1 – “Authentic Community”

I. City Church Tagline

- a. “An Authentic Community Walking with God in Our City
- b. Tonight we will discuss what we mean when refer to “Authentic Community”

II. What we’re facing in Gainesville

- a. People are suspicious
- b. People have been burned by the church
- c. People want spirituality but not “moral authoritarianism”
- d. People are apathetic
- e. People have rejected Christianity entirely

III. Authentic Community

- a. Tagline is a biblical response to the challenges we are facing
- b. Authenticity =
 - i. Vulnerability – 1 Tim. 1:15
 - ii. Sacrificial interest in others – Phil 2:1-11
- c. Community - Acts 2:42-47
 - i. What are the components? Discuss in Community Groups

IV. A Major Challenge

- a. Quote from Corbett/Fikkert in “When Helping Hurts”
- b. “Finding a group of people one Saturday per year to paint dilapidated houses is easy. Finding people to love the people, day in and day out, who live in those houses, is extremely difficult”
- c. The quote applied to Community Groups
 - i. It’s easy to get people to come once per week to a Community Group. It’s far more difficult for the people in a Community Group to love one another sacrificially and pursue those who are not yet followers of Christ.

V. Logistics

- a. Community Groups are “open”
- b. Community Groups, by God’s grace, will multiply (be ready!)
- c. Community Group leadership will be entrusted to faithful leaders who are well-equipped for this role and who have participated in City Church leadership training

City Planning – Week 1 Discussion

“Authentic Community”

Passage: Acts 2:42-47

[42] And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. [44] And all who believed were together and had all things in common. [45] And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Questions:

1. What are the main components of the community described in Acts 2:42-47?
2. Which components come naturally to you?
3. Which components feel unnatural (possibly think back on your previous experiences in church small groups)?
4. What might it look like for City Church Community Groups to emulate the components described in Acts 2?
5. What obstacles might prevent us from making necessary changes?
6. What changes might we need to make in our lives in order to live obediently in the manner described in Acts 2:42-47?
7. How can we help one another make necessary changes?
8. Which of City Church's core values do you see represented in this passage?

“The Rocking Chair”

City Planning – Week 1 (Authentic Community)

Additional Texts:

- Acts 4:23-37; Romans 12:9-21; Hebrews 10:24-25; Philippians 2:1-11; James 5:13-18

Video:

- Jeff Vanderstelt on the “Rhythms of Missional Community”
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29fL9sufi-4>

Articles:

- <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tgc/2012/05/14/community-on-mission-with-depth-of-intimacy/>
- <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/gospeldrivenchurch/2013/01/15/nominally-christian-community-like-adding-up-zeros/>

Sermon:

- Go to <http://www.ebfchurch.org/media.php?pageID=5>
- Scroll down to the sermon from 3/17/13 – “PTR – Normal Radical”

Book:

- “Life Together” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

For Your Consideration:

- What lifestyle adjustments might we need to make in order to obediently pursue authentic community?