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WE ARE SO EXCITED THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN THE STEP TO HOST A VOX CHURCH COMMUNITY GROUP FOR THE NEXT SEVEN WEEKS. GOD HAS PUT A BURDEN AND DESIRE ON OUR HEARTS TO SEE PEOPLE LIVING IN AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACROSS NEW ENGLAND, AND COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE THE BEST WAY FOR US TO SEE THIS DREAM COME TO LIFE. EACH WEEK, VOX CHURCH COMMUNITY GROUPS GATHER IN PEOPLE'S HOMES TO TALK ABOUT JESUS AND ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. LIVES ARE TRANSFORMED THROUGH THESE GROUPS, AND WE ARE THRILLED THAT YOU ARE JOINING US IN THIS MISSION!

"OK I'M IN" WILL WALK US THROUGH SEVEN KEY ELEMENTS OF AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, AND HOW WE CAN APPLY THESE ELEMENTS TO OUR LIVES TODAY. IN TODAY'S WORLD OF EVER-INCREASING DIGITAL INTERACTIONS, WE FIND THAT A HUNGER FOR REAL, FACE-TO-FACE RELATIONSHIP IS STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE. WE HAVE THIS DEEP CRAVING FOR COMMUNITY, BUT IF WE ARE HONEST, WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE AND HOW TO FIND IT. THERE IS GOOD NEWS: GOD HAS REVEALED HIS PERFECT WILL FOR COMMUNITY IN THE SCRIPTURES, AND HE MAKES IT AVAILABLE TO ALL OF US.

FOR THE NEXT SEVEN WEEKS, YOUR GROUP WILL MEET WEEKLY TO WATCH A SHORT VIDEO TEACHING BY LEAD PASTOR JUSTIN KENDRICK, AND THEN DISCUSS THE APPLICATION QUESTIONS FOUND IN THIS HOST BOOK. BEFORE YOUR GROUP MEETING, PLEASE PREVIEW THE VIDEO TEACHING AND READ OVER THE APPLICATION QUESTIONS. THIS WILL HELP YOU TO FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE CONTENT AND BE BEST PREPARED FOR YOUR GROUP.

IN YOUR HOST KIT YOU WILL FIND PARTICIPANT CARDS. EACH WEEK HAND OUT THE CORRESPONDING CARD TO YOUR GROUP MEMBERS BEFORE WATCHING THE VIDEO TEACHING. ONE SIDE OF THE CARD HAS SPACE FOR TAKING NOTES DURING THE TEACHING, AND THE OTHER SIDE HAS STEPS FOR APPLYING WHAT YOU LEARNED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. ENCOURAGE YOUR GROUP MEMBERS TO TAKE THESE CARDS HOME AND USE THEM DURING THEIR TIME WITH GOD.

AGAIN, WE ARE SO EXCITED TO PARTNER WITH YOU IN THIS SERIES! THE ENTIRE STAFF AT VOX CHURCH IS PRAYING FOR YOUR GROUP. WE CANNOT WAIT TO HEAR STORIES OF GOD EXPANDING YOUR FAITH OVER THE NEXT SEVEN WEEKS! GOD BLESS!

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## **WEEK 1: PROXIMITY PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY**

This week Justin introduces the first of seven elements of intentional community: proximity. By allowing ourselves to let others near, we welcome the opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and others. As you prepare, take a few minutes to review all the materials for this week. Please note, there are questions for both before and after watching the video. Also, question #4 provides an opportunity for your group members to give their lives to Christ.

### **BEFORE VIEWING THE VIDEO:**

If there are people who do not know one another, allow everyone to spend a few minutes introducing themselves and talking about what they are hoping to find within this group.

### **POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Talk about how you experienced proximity as you were growing up. Who were the people you were closest to? Did you find this in your family, neighborhood or school friends, sports teams, etc.?
2. Proximity simply means nearness or to be close. Sharing a space brings opportunity for growth. Talk about one person you are currently close to and how that has fostered growth in your life.

3. Often something in us hesitates to let others get close. Maybe we resist proximity because we are afraid to let others see who we really are. Where in your life do you struggle with isolation? Why do you think that is so? What is one step you can take this week to draw closer to others?

4. *CG Host: Please familiarize yourself with the contents of this question - including the prayer provided at the end.*

An even bigger issue is keeping God at a distance, that is, not allowing Him to come close. We do this for many reasons - fear, insecurity, sin, past experiences, etc. Jesus Christ came to make a way for us to be close to God. His perfect life, His death and His resurrection literally opened the door for us to know God - to experience Him as Savior, as Lord and as Father. Let's take a moment and close our eyes. Focus your heart on God and then I'll lead you in prayer.

*Allow 30-60 seconds of silence, then pray:*

*Jesus, I turn my heart towards You. I believe that you lived, died and rose again that I might know You. I am sorry for keeping You at a distance. I am sorry for thinking I could live without You. I need You. Please forgive me. Holy Spirit, come live within my heart. I believe that today is a new day for me. Thank You, God. Amen.*

## **ANSWER KEY FOR PARTICIPANT CARD FILL-IN:**

PROXIMITY PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY.



WEEK 1 NOTES:



## **WEEK 2: VULNERABILITY CREATES CONNECTION**

This week's video focuses in on the value of vulnerability within intentional community.

### **BEFORE VIEWING THE VIDEO:**

Take a few moments and discuss how you applied what we learned about proximity in your everyday life last week. Share the positive impacts it made.

### **POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. When you were growing up, was vulnerability encouraged within your family of origin. Why or why not?
2. At times we all resist vulnerability because we are protecting a broken self-image or a false image. How does this need to protect how others see you hinder you from establishing honest and meaningful relationships?

For example, can you think of a time when you steered a conversation in an attempt to reinforce a false image? Or a past hurt that's causing you to hide your true self from others? In light of today's teaching, what will you do differently so that you will allow yourself to be vulnerable instead of self-protective?

3. Justin spoke about God's willingness to be vulnerable with us. He risked rejection, offered Himself and - through Jesus - reconciled us to God. How does this extravagant love of God encourage you to take steps toward vulnerability? In light of these truths, what is one step you will take this week to begin practicing vulnerability?

4. Break into groups of two or three. Take a few moments and pray for one another. Pray that each would begin shedding our false selves and embracing the vulnerability needed for intentional community.

## **ANSWER KEY FOR PARTICIPANT CARD FILL-IN:**

VULNERABILITY CREATES CONNECTION.



**WEEK 2 NOTES:**

## **WEEK 3: DISCIPLESHIP SETS DIRECTION**

This week Justin unpacks the third element of intentional community: discipleship. Together, you and your community group will learn that there's truly nothing like actively pursuing God with all your heart in community.

### **BEFORE VIEWING THE VIDEO:**

Talk about your experiences these past two weeks with crafting your own prayer from Scripture. Has it been easy or difficult? Why is that?

### **POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Talk about a time in your life when you felt aimless or without clear direction. How did you move out of that season? Who helped you?

2. What was your view of discipleship before today's video? How has that changed since hearing Justin share his heart in this teaching?

3. Justin mentioned this quote by Viktor Frankl, Holocaust survivor: *"Those who have a 'why' to live, can bear with almost any 'how'."*

- In your spiritual journey, what is your big 'why'? And how did you discover that purpose?

(If people struggle to find an answer, mention some realms of life and faith, i.e. knowing God more each day, sharing your faith, using your skills and talents to serve God, specific burdens on your heart such as helping the poor or teaching children.)

- After hearing today's teaching, how would pursuing this 'why' with others who are like-minded strengthen you?

4. Read Philippians 3:12-17, then discuss:

- What are some past things you need to forget?
- Name one new goal you sense God putting on your heart.
- What is one new way of thinking you'd like to embrace?
- How would your actions change if you lived fully in the truth of these verses?

## **ANSWER KEY FOR PARTICIPANT CARD FILL-INS:**

DISCIPLESHIP IS THE ACTIVE PURSUIT OF GOD.

DISCIPLESHIP SETS DIRECTION.



**WEEK 3 NOTES:**

## **WEEK 4: FUN AMPLIFIES GRACE**

This week Justin focuses on the truth that real fun works best when driven from the inside out. As we discover that God delights in us, a whole new world of true joy and fun opens up for the believer.

### **BEFORE VIEWING THE VIDEO:**

Last week's practical application involved asking God to show you one or two changes you could make in order pursue God wholeheartedly on your own and in discipleship relationships with others. What action step did you take last week in response to what God revealed to you? How did this impact your life?

### **POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Most of us grew up seeking joy through outward experiences or circumstances. How did your family have fun? How has that changed for you since coming to trust in Christ?
2. We see in John chapter 2 that Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine. Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

3. This first miracle was not about Jesus endorsing excessive drinking. It's important to remember that His actions were a physical sign pointing to a spiritual reality. This sign is about God abundantly pouring out His love and grace on our lives through Jesus.

Think about every realm of your life - how you treat or view others, your choices, your words, the affections of your heart. How has this extravagant gift of life tangibly changed you? What changes do you see in your disposition, your actions and your choices because of God's grace in your life?

4. Justin talked about the inner grace we receive from God being displayed through the fun and delight we experience. Right now, in your life, what's stealing your fun? Is it fear, discontentment, an offense or simply not believing in how much God loves you? Break into groups of 2 or 3 and pray specifically for freedom from those 'fun-stealers'. Then pray that each would receive a greater understanding of God's grace available through faith.

## **ANSWER KEY FOR PARTICIPANT CARD FILL-INS:**

WE BECOME THE **OBJECT** OF GOD'S DELIGHT.

OUTWARD ACTS OF **FUN** TESTIFY TO THE **INWARD**  
EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S GRACE.

FUN AMPLIFIES **GRACE**.





**WEEK 4 NOTES:**

## **WEEK 5: SACRIFICE MATURES LOVE**

This week's teaching focuses on the reality that loving others well has a cost, and as we love sacrificially we grow in our relationship with Christ.

### **BEFORE VIEWING THE VIDEO:**

Take a few minutes before the video and discuss the application from last week. Ask group members to share their experiences of grace being amplified through fun and through reaching out to others.

### **POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What did sacrifice look like in your family of origin? How did that impact your ability or willingness to sacrifice for others?
2. Justin mentioned that in intentional community we cannot live numb to a broken world. In your spiritual journey, when have you been deeply impacted by the pain and brokenness of others? How did this affect you? In other words, how did you respond? And why do you think you responded in that way?
3. Read these verses:

*1 John 4:7-11 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made*

*manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

The key to sacrificial love is found in the truth that being loved by God leads to becoming a loving person. Break into groups of 2 or 3, and discuss these questions:

- o What is hindering you from fully embracing God's love for you?
- o Where in your life do you sense a lack of love toward others?

Confess your struggles to one another. Receive God's forgiveness. Ask for God's love to fill your heart, and for the grace and strength to walk in His love.

4. Come back together as a group to discuss this question. What sacrifice is God asking you to make right now for the sake of intentional community? What step will you take this week to obey His voice?

## **ANSWER KEY FOR PARTICIPANT CARD FILL-INS:**

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO LOVE WITHOUT IT COSTING YOU.

SACRIFICE MATURES LOVE.

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**WEEK 5 NOTES:**

## **WEEK 6: MISSION DRIVES ADVENTURE**

This week we will discover that living the Christian life with intentional community is an unpredictable and exciting adventure!

### **BEFORE VIEWING THE VIDEO:**

Take a few moments before you watch the video and ask your group members to share how they loved sacrificially in response to last week's sermon application.

### **POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. As you were growing up, how did your family have fun?  
What is one of your best memories of fun with family or friends?
2. On your current spiritual journey, what has been your greatest adventure to date?

3. Brainstorm together as a group - don't hold back, instead dream big as you discuss these questions:

-What if you embraced the truth that your greatest adventure is found in a life fully surrendered to God? That is, rescuing souls by sharing the gospel, making disciples by investing in others, praying for the sick to be healed, giving your time and resources freely to God's Church and serving others would make your life more exciting than living a self-centered spirituality.

-How would your day-to-day life look different than it does today?

-What practical changes would you need to make?

4. Based on your thoughts and answers to question #3, what two steps can each of you take this week to move away from living for self and begin living on mission in your daily life? As a group, what can you do together to step out into mission within intentional community? (Consider serving together at a soup kitchen or a neighborhood cleanup project. Dream and discuss together.)

## **ANSWER KEY FOR PARTICIPANT CARD FILL-IN:**

MISSION DRIVES ADVENTURE!





**WEEK 6 NOTES:**

## **WEEK 7: BOUNDARIES SUSTAIN GROWTH**

This week Justin explores the biblical concept of boundaries. When we live interdependently, within intentional community, we establish healthy boundaries that foster our growth in Christ.

### **BEFORE VIEWING THE VIDEO:**

Before watching the video, ask people to share about their God-adventures from last week. Who did they pray for, what did God show them to do and how were others impacted by their obedience?

### **POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What did boundaries look like for you as you were growing up? Was your family prone to independence, co-dependence or interdependence? How did this affect you?

2. As a Christ follower, what has been your experience with “bearing one another’s burdens”? To answer this, talk about a time when someone helped you bear a crushing burden. How did that impact you?

Also, think about a time when the burden was truly yours to carry. What did you do to sustain your soul during this time?

3. What painful and heavy things are you carrying right now that you should be asking others to help you with? Why do you resist asking for help?

4. Do you find yourself in relationships where you unwisely carry a load for someone that they should be carrying? What steps can you take this week to establish healthy boundaries in those relationships?

## **ANSWER KEY FOR PARTICIPANT CARD FILL-INS:**

BOUNDARIES SUSTAIN GROWTH.

VERSE 2 - BURDENS: AN EXCESSIVE WEIGHT THAT  
DRIVES YOU INTO THE GROUND.

VERSE 5 - LOAD: CARGO, THE PROPER AMOUNT  
THAT ONE MUST CARRY.



**WEEK 7 NOTES:**





**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**





**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**







**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**





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