



GRANDVIEW
CHURCH

COMMUNITY GROUP PRIMER

Version 1.2

We are **A FAMILY** adopted by the Father

We are **MISSIONARIES** sent by the Holy Spirit

We are **DISCIPLES** following the way of Jesus

OUR LANGUAGE

In this primer, the term “Community Group,” or “CG,” is synonymous with “Missional Community,” or “MC.” While other organizations and churches who support this model have commonly used “Missional Community” to describe this model and philosophy, we have opted to use “Community Group.” This is largely to do with conversations had with non-churched people who have been confused or wary of the term “missional,” an uncommon word used in secular society which caused some discomfort. “Community Group” is more common language that we hope is clear and widely understood.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We exist to glorify God by showing and sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

VALUES

Gospel-Driven - We are deliberate about ensuring that the gospel is the unifying and motivating factor in everything we say and do. (*Romans 1:16; 15:20; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 3:11*)

Relational - We cultivate relationships as the foundation for community building, gospel proclamation, discipleship and accountability. (*Acts 4:32-35; Romans 12:13; Ephesians 4:2-6; 1 Peter 4:8-9*)

Multipliers - We actively pursue opportunities to multiply disciples, community groups, and eventually churches. (*Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:47; Acts 9:31*)

Contributors - We are a community of owners, not customers... contributors, not consumers. (*Acts 2:45-46; Romans 12:3-13; 1 Peter 4:10-11*)

WHAT ARE COMMUNITY GROUPS?

Community Groups (CGs) are groups of 15-25 people who gather regularly, typically in a home, intentionally living out their biblical identities as family, missionary and disciple. Each CG comes together for normal family activities, such as meals and prayer. They are individuals who are sent on mission where they live, work, play, and rest, identifying a group of people that they believe the Holy Spirit is calling them to be on mission 'to' and 'with.' Each CG's mission will look different, depending on the gifts, geography and passions of the group. CGs can regularly practice hospitality through family meals. These are great opportunities to invite neighbours, coworkers and friends who may be unfamiliar with the institutional church experience.

They are led by various leaders: the family lead(s) who care for the group as they live together as a family, the missionary lead(s) who spearhead the missionary work of the group, and the discipleship leads, who each lead their own Discipleship Groups.

SO WHY COMMUNITY GROUPS?

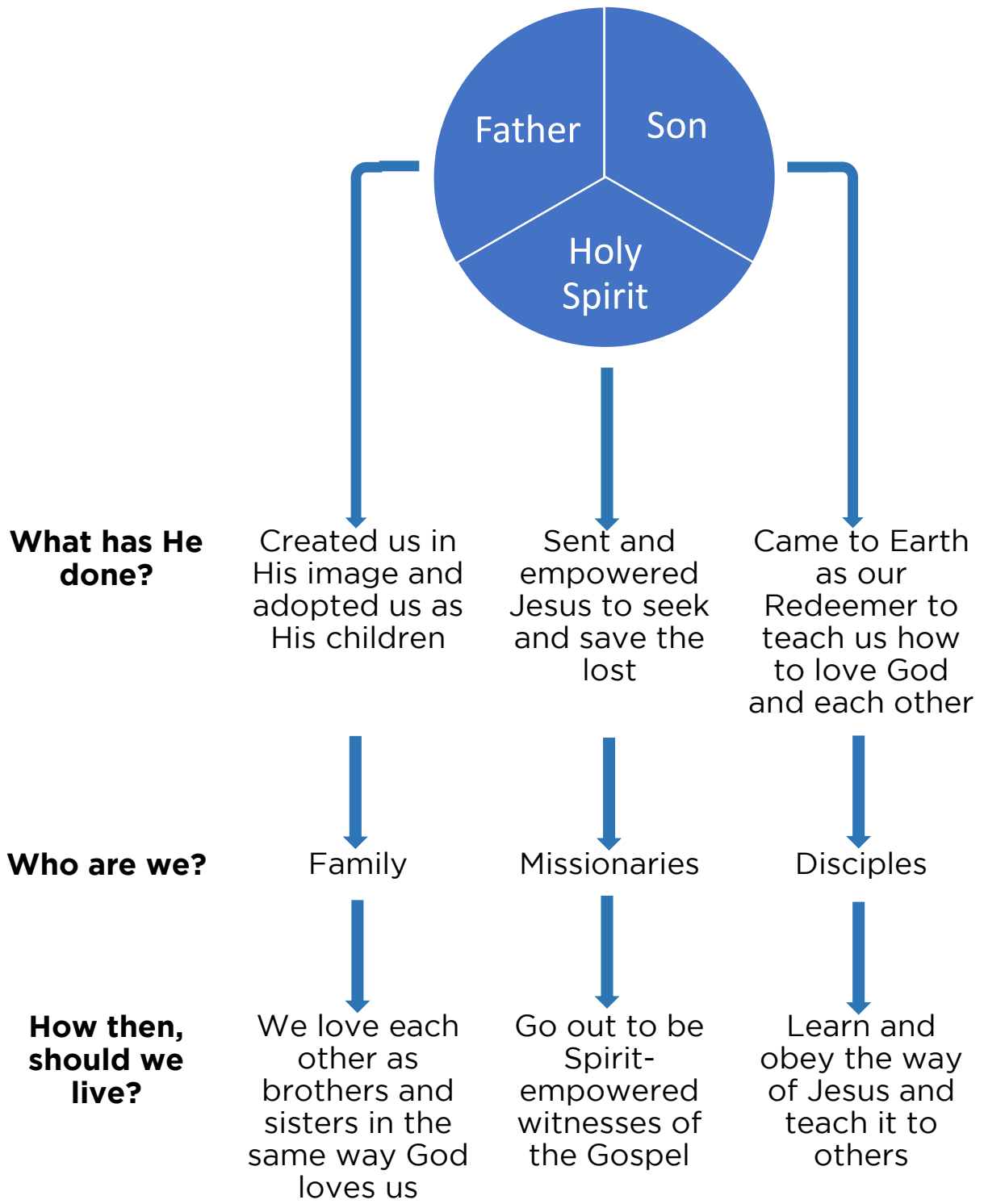
Community Groups are groups of people applying the gospel in their everyday lives so that through them the gospel might be shown and shared in our world.

BIBLICAL IDENTITIES

Our biblical identities are who we are in Christ. In other words - they flip the world's perspective on identity upside down. In the world, our identity comes from within (e.g. where we come from, what we do for work, our sexuality or relationship status, etc.), but when we are 'in Christ' our identity comes from God and who He says we are. Therefore, we discover our identity by asking:

- Who is God?
- What has He done?
- Who are we?
- How then, should we live?

Who is God?



FAMILY

We are a family adopted by the Father.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:4-7)

Our identity as a family is the key in how we treat one another and think of one another as brothers and sisters adopted by God the Father. We are no longer slaves of sin but rather united by this incredible family bond that can never be broken. As brothers and sisters, we should treat one another with love and respect, always seeking to help each other grow more in the three biblical identities (Family, Missionary, Disciple), which accomplishes our ultimate purpose: to bring glory to God. The primary way to live out our identity as family will be living life together with the other people in our Community Groups.

MISSIONARY

We are missionaries sent by the Holy Spirit.

He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:7-8)

Our missionary identity reminds us that we are 'sent ones' with a mission: to make disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teaching them the way of Jesus. Simply put, we are people with a purpose. We desire to be showing people the love of Jesus Christ in the ways we live, the ways we treat our brothers and sisters, and the ways we treat everyone else that we meet. We want to be sharing the love of Jesus by proclaiming the gospel and how it transforms lives. Being a missionary glorifies God and builds his kingdom here on earth. The primary way we will live out this identity will be through outreach as Community Groups.

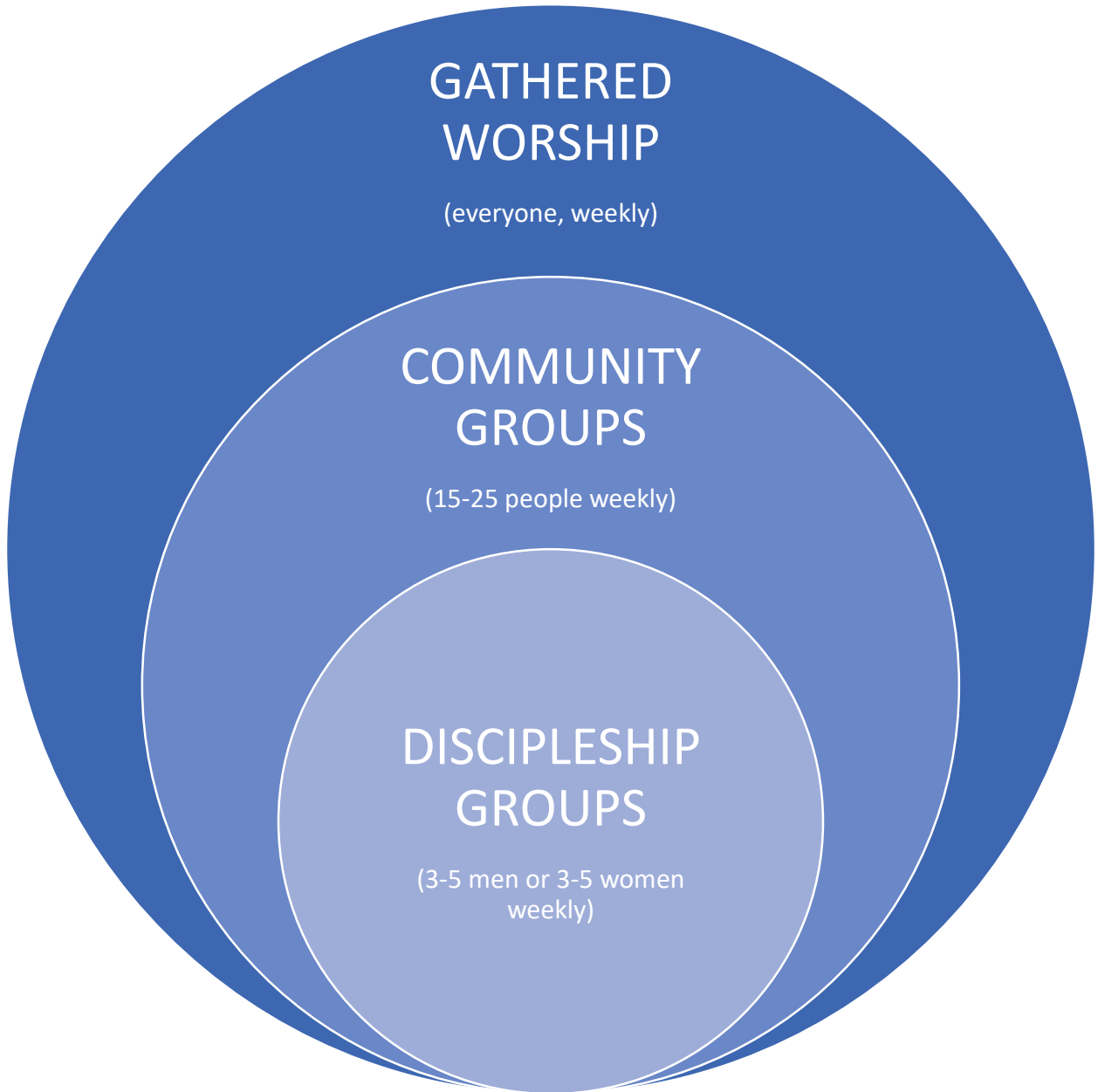
DISCIPLE

We are disciples following the way of Jesus.

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:18-20)

Our identity as disciples means that we also deeply care for the health of our own souls. We should always be seeking to grow in our knowledge of Jesus and deepening our relationship with him through prayer, studying the Bible, and accountability. The primary way we live out this identity of disciples following the way of Jesus is through Discipleship Groups.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:



DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Discipleship Groups (DGs) are groups of 3-5 men or 3-5 women whose goal is to grow spiritually through praying together and carefully studying the Bible, examining what it means to truly follow Jesus and be obedient to his commands. These groups may utilize different curriculums and learning tools such as The First Principles Series to provide a structure of ordered learning to become firmly established in the faith.

The smaller size of these groups allows for vulnerability and accountability which can be a challenge in larger groups. Through asking good questions, listening well and speaking the truth in love to each other, DGs will help each other as a family, build one another up and not let their brothers and sisters stay idle or backslide in their walk with Christ.

To be a Christian means to follow Christ, therefore we must be intentional about how we live our lives as lifelong apprentices of Jesus. In Jesus' final words on earth he commanded his followers to go and make disciples (Matt. 28:18-20). DGs allow for an environment to engage, encourage and equip each other for spiritual maturity and multiplication.

GATHERED WORSHIP

Gathered Worship is the weekly Sunday morning worship service where all the Community Groups gather to worship God together. This is an opportunity for the larger church family to learn from His Word, reconnect with each other, celebrate what God is doing, share stories of God's work in and through their CGs and be equipped for the work of the ministry.

The goal of Gathered Worship is that the church would be edified, and most importantly, that God would be glorified. At the weekly gathering, we commit to the regular practice of:

- **Reading the Bible** (1 Tim. 4:13)

We place a high value on reading and hearing God's Word. We believe that "man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

- **Preaching the Bible** (2 Tim. 4:2)

The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16). All Scripture is ultimately about Jesus (Luke 24:27) and "is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). We are committed to preaching the gospel, to both believers and unbelievers, its truth, power and implications.

- **Praying the Bible** (1 Tim. 2:1)

Regular corporate and public prayer acknowledges our dependence on God and allows us to focus our hearts on Him. Through books of the Bible like the Psalms, examples of prayer throughout the Epistles or Jesus' own teaching, Scripture teaches us how to pray. We approach God in our Gathered Worship on His terms, according to who He has revealed Himself to be, not who we would prefer Him to be.

- **Singing the Bible** (Col. 3:16)

One of the ways we worship God is by singing theologically rich songs that use His Word both accurately and generously. We desire to build each other up and worship God by, "addressing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19).

- **Seeing the Bible** - baptism (Luke 22:19-20) & communion (Rom. 6:3-4)

The ordinances of baptism and communion beautifully present and remind us of the gospel, both visually and experientially. The Lord's Supper symbolizes Christ's body broken and blood poured out for our sins (Luke 22:19-20). Baptism represents our spiritual death to sin, symbolic burial with Christ, and resurrection with Him to new life (Rom. 6:3-4).