

THE  
ADVENTURE  
OF

**FAITH AND**

**FOLLOWING**

**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY GUIDE**

for February 27, 2022

Part of the mission of our church is to awaken people to Christ and His message and equip them to practice their faith in real life. One way we do this at Celebration is through Communities.

Church is more than a one-hour gathering on a Sunday morning. Church is also a community gathering around a table, doing life together the other six days of the week.

# BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Celebration Communities are an opportunity for our church family to live in a deep web of relationships. We eat together, pray for one another, and practice the way of Jesus in Brantford and the surrounding areas.

As you read through this week's guide, remain centered around these purposes:

Love God

Learn the ways of Jesus

Live with purpose

The following guide is meant to help direct your time together. These are best practices and *not* a rigid set of instructions to follow.

# GUIDED COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Gather as a group in a comfortable setting. Your Celebration Community leader will lead a brief time of prayer at the beginning, asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your time together. Take time to be silent before you begin. It's important to declutter our minds so that we may focus on one another and God's presence. Pray the ancient prayer: 'Come, Holy Spirit'.

Work through this week's guided questions:

(1) What brought me joy this week?

(2) Where did I notice God's presence?

(3) Was there anything God revealed to me?

(4) Many of us could perhaps relate to being in a place in life where we feel stuck. Have I ever experienced a "wilderness" in my life?

(5) How do we break the wilderness cycle and get to a place of crossing?

(6) What do I believe is the relationship between faith and perseverance?

(7) How has my faith been challenged recently? What might God have been teaching me through this process?

# PRACTICE THE WAY

All throughout the Scriptures, we see the Holy Spirit regularly empowering the work of justice and mercy. Throughout the Bible and Church history, we witness the people of God being drawn to those in need and in pain.

In fact, Teresa of Avila once said this:

**"Christ has no body but yours; go out and be Christ body to the world."**

This week, we're asking our Celebration Communities to once again reflect on a way you can serve your neighborhood, community or city in practical ways.

Back in October, we asked each Community to begin planning a significant act of service they can do, *together*. We asked you to take time to pray and discuss this together. Some of the questions we asked were:

**What are some of the deeper needs in our neighborhood, city or town?**

**Who is primarily being impacted by this need?**

**What would happen if God's purpose for these people or this situation started to come true?**

This week, we invite you to once again ask these questions and pray about what your community can do. However, we also encourage you to begin planning. What will your Community do to practice the way of Jesus in Brantford and the surrounding areas? Where might the Holy Spirit be leading you?

# PRAY TOGETHER

Spend time together in conversation with God.

We invite you to pray for one another, as well as de-escalation in Eastern Europe and the world.

The following was written by Chris Denne and Pete Grieg. Take turns praying the following:

## "A PRAYER FOR THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE"

**(1) Father God**, King of all nations, we cry out to you now for the people of Ukraine. We ask you to rescue those who are vulnerable from the hands of their enemies that they may live without fear before you all their days [Luke 1v74-75].

**(2) Lord of lords and Prince of peace**, our politicians are predicting the biggest war in Europe since 1945, and we simply cry out to you urgently to write another story in our time. Thwart the dark machinations of evil men. Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to peacemakers seeking an equitable and less violent way. May politicians exercise the wisdom from above, which is peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, and full of mercy [James 3v17].

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**(3) Lord of lords and Prince of peace**, our politicians are predicting the biggest war in Europe since 1945, and we simply cry out to you urgently to write another story in our time. Thwart the dark machinations of evil men. Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to peacemakers seeking an equitable and less violent way. May politicians exercise the wisdom from above, which is peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, and full of mercy [James 3v17].

**(4) You Lord**, make wars cease to the end of the earth; you break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46v9]. And so we ask you now to save the lives of many people in Ukraine. Make a peace that is strong and not weak. De-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumors of wars [Matthew 24v6]. But you Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in you. And so we address the nations now. In the name of Jesus we say: "Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations; he shall be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46v10]

**(5) Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

Amen.

# THE WEEK AHEAD

As you live out the rest of your week, consider what has been shared during your time together.

Ask yourself:

**Who has God placed in my life to pray for and encourage?**

**What can I ask my Community to keep me accountable for next time we meet?**

Also, we're inviting our Communities to participate in Fasting and Prayer Wednesdays throughout the months of February and March.

We recommend people start simple if they've never done this before by fasting from sunrise to noon. If you practiced fasting before, feel free to try fasting from sunrise to sunset (with a late dinner) or a 24-hour fast when you're ready. Each time you feel hungry, let this prompt you towards prayer. Use this time you would normally eat to listen to and speak with God.

We will have prayer opportunities on-site each Wednesday. Please reach out via social media or email if you're interested in joining us for in-person prayer.

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