



**becoming
me**

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY GUIDE

for April 10, 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) Before I became an apprentice of Jesus, who was I and who was I becoming? How has becoming an apprentice of Jesus changed the way I see myself and the person I'm becoming?

(5) What sort of lies have I led myself to believe about my identity?

(6) What sort of things do I find myself living towards in this current season? What is capturing my attention, my time, my money or my heart?

PRACTICE THE WAY

Read Ephesians 4v22-25 together as a Community.

Answer this question together: How am I currently "putting off my old self?" What kinds of things are part of my "new self"?

Take time this week to practice **listening prayer**.

Find a quiet space, turning off or putting away all distractions. Take a deep breath and invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you. In silence, pray that Jesus would continue to reveal who it is you are and what you are called to do. Use the following guided questions to help structure this time:

- (1) Are there sins or habits holding me back from the life you have planned for me?
- (2) Are there people, places or things that I'm living towards that I've falsely placed my safety, my self-worth and my happiness in?
- (2) Is there any truth I may be missing?
- (3) Are there lies that I continue to believe about myself?
- (4) Are there things you're calling me to do in this season?
- (5) What should my focus be today, this week, this month or this year?
- (6) Who am I?
- (7) Who am I becoming?

As you work through the list of questions above this week, also take time to reflect on what the Bible says about your identity. On the following page is a list of identity statements from the Bible provided by Practicing the Way. Read slowly through the list asking yourself: **Do I believe what I'm reading? How does each statement make me feel? If I don't believe it, what is keeping me from accepting this truth?**

Adapted from "Identity" by Gavin Bennet at Practicing the Way. Practicingtheway.org

PRACTICE THE WAY

Identity statements from the Bible:

- I am the salt and light of the earth. (Matthew 5v13-14)
- I've been given a spirit of power, love, and a self-control – not fear. (2 Timothy 1v7)
- I can find grace and mercy in time of need. (Hebrews 4v16)
- I am hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3v3)
- I am complete in Christ. (Colossians 2v10)
- I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. (Colossians 1v14)
- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4v13)
- I am a citizen of heaven. (Philippians 3v20)
- I know that God will complete the good work he started in me. (Philippians 1v6)
- I may approach God with freedom and confidence. (Ephesians 3v12)
- I am God's workmanship. (Ephesians 2v10)
- I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 2v18)
- I have been adopted as God's child. (Ephesians 1v5)
- I am a saint. (Ephesians 1v1)
- I am a minister of reconciliation for God. (2 Corinthians 5v18-21)
- I am a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5v17)
- I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God. (2 Corinthians 1v21-22)
- I am a member of Christ's body. (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- I have been bought at a price. I belong to God. (1 Corinthians 6v20)
- I am God's temple. (1 Corinthians 3v16)
- I am God's coworker. (1 Corinthians 3v9)
- I cannot be separated from the love of God. (Romans 8v35-39)
- I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit. (John 15v16)
- I am Christ's friend. (John 15v15)

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PRAY TOGETHER

Spend time together in conversation with God.

Ask yourself before praying:

(1) What has God revealed to me this past week?

(2) Where is God inviting me to meet Him this upcoming week?

(3) Who is Jesus leading me to become? Have I dug my feet in or am I ready to pursue all that Jesus has for me?

Your leader will begin praying for individuals in the group. Take turns praying for each member. If everyone in your group is comfortable with laying hands on each other, feel free to do so.

If this is your first time in a Celebration Community, and you don't feel comfortable sharing something or praying out loud, feel free to be silent. Your Community is an opportunity and space where you can grow. You're welcome and safe here.

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?

As a Community, we encourage you to continue planning a significant act of service within your neighborhood or city. Take time to read through our booklet for this project, creating a concrete plan for your group to pray about and execute together by this summer.

For more information on this initiative, ask your Community leaders or head to the Resources page at happychurch.ca.



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