



CORE VALUE:
Authentic Community

Opening

Ask one or two people in your group to read **EPHESIANS 4:1-6** and **1 THESSALONIANS 5:11**. Reflect on this question: How can following Paul's advice nurture authentic community at Trinity CRC?

Conversation

At Trinity CRC, we are called to be...

AN AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY

- We are committed to building loving relationships where authentic biblical community is practiced.
- We believe that our lives are shaped in community. For this reason, we seek to provide a safe place for all to experience ministries for the whole person.
- We believe that the Lord has made room for us, so we make room for others. For this reason, we seek to provide a safe place for the stranger, for the broken, and for the seeker.
- We believe that God's Word calls us to be devoted to one another. We provide opportunities by which we can practice care for one another in a relevant and loving way.

ADA'S STORY

Ada* moved here six months ago
when her husband left her.

She didn't know anyone here.

Although she didn't know
much about church or the Bible,
she had a longing in her heart
to find a safe place to connect
with others and find community.

A member of Trinity CRC
befriended her and invited her to
a small group of other Trinity CRC
members and friends. She now feels
a sense of belonging and her hopes
are fueled from knowing that
not others care about her,
but God cares for her, too.

*The stories in each section are true
but the names have been changed.

Consider these **QUESTIONS** as a group...

In what ways is Trinity CRC demonstrating authentic biblical community?

How have you seen Trinity CRC be a safe place for all
(e.g. the longtime member, the stranger, the broken,
the seeker) to experience the authentic love of Jesus?

How are we caring for one another in relevant and loving ways?

Where are the gaps? Who is being left out of experiencing authentic community?

How can we fill those gaps? What specific thing are we as a group or as individuals going to do?

Closing

Invite someone in your group to offer a closing prayer.



CORE VALUE:

Compassionate Community

Opening

Ask one or two people in your group to read **MATTHEW 25:34-38** and **ROMANS 12:9-13**. Reflect on these questions: Who comes to mind when you read these texts – people you already know or strangers? How do these passages encourage us to be compassionate?

Conversation

At Trinity CRC, we are called to be...

A COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY

- We believe that all people matter to God; therefore, they must matter to us.
- We believe that our Lord calls for us to act justly and love mercy. For this reason, we seek to provide ministries that bring the transforming power of God's presence into our community, region, and world.
- We believe that all people are created in God's image and, because of the work of Christ, we are called to see ourselves and all people as Christ sees us.

WILLIAM'S STORY

William is a member of the community. Because of poor decisions and economic challenges, he was having a difficult time providing for his family. However, through the ministry of Trinity CRC and a trained mentor, he received a hand-up to work towards his God-given potential and capacity in his vocation and in his home. In William's words, he has experienced the transforming power of the Holy Spirit through the caring ministry of Trinity CRC.

Consider these **QUESTIONS** as a group...

In what ways is Trinity CRC demonstrating compassion in our church family, our community, and our world?

How can we see the image of God in others and encourage people around us to do the same?

What people don't matter as much to us?

Where are the gaps? Who is being left out of experiencing a compassionate community?

How can we fill those gaps? What specific thing are we as a group or as individuals going to do?

Closing

Invite someone in your group to offer a closing prayer.

CORE VALUE:
Worshipping Community



Opening

Ask one or two people in your group to read **PSALM 98** and **COLOSSIANS 3:16-17**. Reflect on this question: How do these passages encourage us as individuals and as a community to worship our God?

Conversation

At Trinity CRC, we are called to be...

A WORSHIPING COMMUNITY

- We believe worship is a gathering of God's people at God's gracious invitation through which the community of believers encounters the presence of the living Lord. For this reason, we seek to provide worship experiences focused on the Lord and His Word and Sacraments that are intergenerational, blended, and connective.
- We believe that worship encompasses all our lives. We worship through our work and leisure, in homes and schools.
- We believe it is essential that prayer is central to our lives. For that reason, we are committed to lives that are characterized, guided, and empowered by prayer.

BECKY'S STORY

Becky is a 20-something who belongs to Trinity CRC. She notes that her most favorite time of the week is when she gathers with the corporate body on Sunday to worship. Through worship, she is able to express her thanks and love to God through prayer, Scripture, and music. She notes the freedom she experiences in the worship as she is able to be real before God and her fellow worshipers. Joy refreshes her soul and she leaves the worship center with an assurance of God's love and presence in her life along with a compelling commitment to share God's love with others.

Consider these **QUESTIONS** as a group...

What is worship and why does it matter?

How does our worship at Trinity CRC enable people to glorify the Lord?

Can you give examples of how our worship is intergenerational, blended, and connective?

How are we emphasizing the importance of prayer?

Where are the gaps? What goals are we missing? Who is being left out of experiencing a worshipping community?

How can we fill those gaps? What specific thing are we as a group or as individuals going to do?

Closing

Invite someone in your group to offer a closing prayer.

CORE VALUE:
Growing Community



Opening

Ask one or two people in your group to read **PSALMS 71:15-18 & 96:1-3** and **1 PETER 4:10-11**. Reflect on this question: How do these passages encourage us to grow in our faith and share it with others?

Conversation

At Trinity CRC, we are called to be...

A GROWING COMMUNITY

- We believe that the pursuit of full devotion to Christ and his cause is normal for all believers. For this reason, we provide age-appropriate discipleship ministries for all ages in order to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and his calling in our lives.
- We desire to develop children and youth as disciples in the Kingdom of God.
- We believe leadership development is a priority for the kingdom. For this reason, we are committed to the intentional development of leaders for the church and the kingdom.
- We believe Christ has gifted the church to do ministry. For this reason, we are committed to being faithful stewards of all God has given us. We discover our spiritual gifts and calling, and then develop and use them to serve one another and strengthen the body.
- We believe that our Lord extends the gospel around the world and sends us to make disciples of all nations. For this reason, we seek to train disciple makers and extend the good news through local ministries, planting churches, and sending missionaries.

VICTOR'S STORY

Victor has been involved in Trinity CRC's ministries for 40 years. Baptized as a baby and nurtured in the Trinity CRC community, he was initially given leadership responsibilities in the Youth ROC ministry. As others noted his gift of leadership and teaching, he received more opportunities to serve. He has gone on short-term mission trips, eager to share his love for the Lord. Today he still immerses himself in God's Word in a small group and helps lead the CREW ministry. He is active on the Outreach Team, seeking ways in which Trinity CRC can be missional here and throughout the world.

Consider these **QUESTIONS** as a group...

What does a fully-devoted follower of Jesus look like?

How are we providing opportunities for people of all ages to identify their gifts and grow in their faith and witness?

How are we sending others to make disciples?

Where are the gaps? What goals are we missing? Who is being left out of experiencing a growing community?

How can we fill those gaps? What specific thing are we as a group or as individuals going to do?

Closing

Invite someone in your group to offer a closing prayer.