

# SESSION 5: BE THE CHURCH

Over the past few sessions, you've told your stories.

You're getting to know each other beyond the surface details of jobs and hometowns and where you went to school. NOW WHAT? For the most part, you need to keep doing what you're doing. Building trust is an ongoing process.

In the weeks and months to come, you will

- Read and talk about the Bible together
- Pray with and for one another
- And just hang out.

**BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE YOU NEED TO DO:  
INVEST IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.**

Christian community is designed to be outwardly focused, concerned with those who don't know Jesus, as well as those on the margins of society (Luke 9:48). We have a responsibility to express to the unloved and even the seemingly unlovable the GRACE AND MERCY that we receive from God (Matthew 2:35-40).

WATCH VIDEO SESSION 7 OF "COMMUNITY" CURRICULUM ON ANTHOLOGY

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

TALK ABOUT A TIME WHEN YOU GOT TO SEE PEOPLE IN A NEW CONTEXT (FOR EXAMPLE: GOING OUT TO DINNER WITH COWORKERS). HOW DID THAT EXPERIENCE CHANGE THE RELATIONSHIPS IN THAT GROUP?

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HOW DO YOU THINK DOING SOMETHING TOGETHER OUTSIDE OF GROUP MEETINGS COULD CHANGE THE RELATIONSHIPS IN THIS GROUP?

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HOW COULD SERVING OTHERS CHANGE PEOPLE'S PERCEPTIONS OF CHRISTIANS? THE CHURCH? CHRIST?

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WHAT KINDS OF THINGS KEEP US FROM INVESTING IN OR SERVING OTHERS?

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IS THERE A CHARITY OR A PARTICULAR GROUP IN NEED THAT IS NEAR AND DEAR TO YOUR HEART? IF SO, TALK ABOUT WHY YOU FEEL A DESIRE TO HELP THAT CHARITY OR GROUP.

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FLAG WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE YOU **AS A GROUP** TO SERVE TOGETHER **BOTH** INSIDE THE CHURCH TO THE REST OF THE BODY AND OUTSIDE THE CHURCH TO THE COMMUNITY.

## SERVING INSIDE THE BODY

### WHY?

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- Serving together with strengthen your relationship with one another
- Prevents becoming only inward focused by looking outward
- Models healthy LifeGroups to others, planting the seed for community by example
- It is easier and more effective to serve together

### HOW?

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- Prepare a meal for the College Ministry (more information available through the College Pastor)
- Serve as a group in the Ark Nursery on Wednesdays (this is a great need and we have more information available through our Nursery Coordinator)
- Adopt a family in need for Christmas
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## WAYS TO SERVE OUTSIDE THE BODY

### WHY?

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- All of the above reasons for serving inside the body, plus...
- To fulfill the Great Commission
- To be Jesus to those who haven't seen an adequate witness of his love
- To be the church outside of church

### HOW?

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- Fill a time slot as a LifeGroup in a water outreach
- Fill the blessing boxes for a week
- Train and serve at the Lord's Diner together
- Spruce up a park or playground
- Participate in a charity that has your heart