Community: Where You and I Belong Spike Hogan November 5, 2023 Hodges Campus

COMMUNITY MEANS REACHING OUT TOGETHER

... you are standing together side by side with one strong purpose – to tell the Good News.

Philippians 1:27b (LB)

You've been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ.

Philippians 1:5 (NLT)

Question: How do LifeGroups P.A.R.T.N.E.R. to share the Good News with others?

❖ P. RAY TOGETHER

Pray for us that God will give us an opportunity to tell people His message.

Colossians 4:3 (NCV)

- > Key Truth: Prayer makes me aware of the needs of those I am praying for.
- ✓ Action Step: Make a group prayer list.

❖ A. <u>PPEAL</u> to <u>COMMON INTERESTS</u>

...whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. ²³I do this to get the Gospel to them and also for the blessing I receive when I see them come to Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:22b-23 (LB)

- ➤ Key Truth: You have to care about someone to share with someone.
- ✓ Action Step: Discover the common interests in your group.

❖ R. <u>EACH OUT</u> in <u>LOVE</u>

Because we loved you, we were happy to share not only God's Good News with you, but even our own lives. You had become so dear to us!

1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NCV)

- > Key Truth: God's love is what man is missing in his life.
 - 1. We are sharing the greatest news the world will ever hear.
 - 2. We will share out of gratitude for what God has done for us.
 - 3. We share because God's love is in our hearts.

 Whatever we do, it is certainly not for our own profit but because Christ's love controls us now."

2 Corinthians 5:14 (LB)

✓ Action Step: Ask God to give you a deeper love for others.

❖ T. <u>ELL</u> your <u>STORY</u>

You are... God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you...

1 Peter 2:9 (MSG)

- ➤ Key Truth: One thing people cannot argue with... your personal story.
 - 1. What were the circumstances that led you to accept Christ?
 - 2. What is the difference Jesus has made in your life since?
- ✓ Action Step: Write out your story and share it with your group.

 Listen and I will tell you what God has done for me.

Psalm 66:16 (NCV)

❖ N. URTURE FRIENDSHIPS

Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people.

Romans 12:16 (CEV)

- Key Truth: Friends don't let friends die without Jesus.
- ✓ Action Step: Bring a friend to your group. Plan a party for Jesus.

 In his home Levi (Matthew) gave a big dinner party for Jesus. Many fellow tax collectors and other guests were also there...

Luke 5:29 (CEV)

❖ E. XPECT GOD to ACT

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.

Hebrews 11:1 (TEV)

Key Truth: You can trust God's promises, purposes, and plan.
"I am the Lord, I do not change."

Malachi 3:6 (NLT)

✓ Action Step: Never give up on anyone.

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 10:13 (NIV)

❖ R. <u>EPRESENT CHRIST</u> with your <u>LIFE</u>

Whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus.

Colossians 3:17 (NLT)

Key Truth: Your walk must equal your talk as a witness for Christ.
Do all you can to live a peaceful life. Take care or your own business

Do all you can to live a peaceful life. Take care or your own business, and do your own work. ¹²If you do, people who are not believers will respect you.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12a (NCV)

✓ Action Step: Pray: God use me.

You are to take his message everywhere, telling the whole world what you have seen and heard.

Acts 22:15 (NLT)