

## Community in Grace Community Bible Church – CE Hour (Handout)

- I. Grace Community Bible Church – How are we doing with our middle name: “Community”?
  - a. The July 7<sup>th</sup> community outreach event will be a celebration of our local church being planted 10 years ago to reach the communities south of the river for Jesus Christ.
  - b. The event helps the community know we are here, what our mission, values, and distinctives are as a local church.
  - c. Focus on being a “local-community” fellowship that has a heart for Christ centered service, doing the one-another’s, and sharing the good news of the gospel.
  - d. GCBC 4 Distinctives:
    - First, we are committed to verse-by-verse bible preaching.
    - Second, we worship with God-centered
    - Third, we are convinced that God’s Word calls us **to follow Jesus in every aspect of life.**
    - Fourth, as a local church, we desire to stay relatively small, seeking instead to plant other churches committed to verse-by-verse preaching, God-centered worship and discipleship.
  - e. All church organizations, but especially small, local, churches need to be accountable and responsible with their time and resources to focus on their published priorities. Our stated Mission and Vision are carried out in the context of community:
    - **Mission**  
*GCBC exists to exalt Christ, edify the saints, and evangelize the world to the glory of the triune God.*
    - **Vision**  
*We desire to make disciples of Jesus Christ in the Lakeville community through expository preaching and teaching of the Scriptures, prayer, fellowship, and the ordinances in order to plant like-minded, Christ exalting, saint edifying, and world evangelizing churches South of the River and beyond.*

II. **Why do we have the term Community?**

a. **What does community outreach mean for various churches?**

b. **What does the Community see as the role of Churches?**

- Churches are seen as important to the community even by those who do not attend on a regular basis. Generally, the un-churched are indifferent to the church overall but do see the value of the church impact on the community.
- Government and church are seen to both provide assistance to those in need within the community, yet do not impact each other politically. Introducing people to a transformed life in Christ is rarely perceived to be an act of community service.
- We know that the biblical pattern: “You change communities by transforming lives.”

III. **Theological Basis for Community & Practical Outworking of Community**

- The concepts of community come up in two big ways in the bible and at GCBC; Community of Believers and Community Outreach.

a) **Community in the local Church**

- New Testament believers performed common unity, day by day doing the one another’s by breaking bread and sharing life.
- Community in the local church looks like the body as one clothing itself in Christ who is perfect in all ways and offers us His spirit to live out our faith in God honoring way.

b) **First & Second Greatest Commandments**

- a. The first commandment is to love your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. The second being we are to love our neighbor as ourselves.
- What if you focused on placing Christ first, others in the community second, and yourself last in all your desires, thoughts, planning and action? What difference would that make in living out the gospel? Take a minute and think what a testimony to Christ your life would be?

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**c) Saved by Faith (Faith that works)**

- Romans tells us that we are saved by faith, yet also that faith without works is dead.
- God knows our hearts and on the day of Jesus's return, we will need to account for all we did and did not do in obedience to scripture.
- Have you faithfully served for Jesus to the least of these?

**d) Evangelism thru Outreach (The Great Commission)**

- This is the heart of outreach; reaching the people who are lost for Christ and teaching them to grow in Christ Likeness. This includes many ministry elements such as sharing the gospel (evangelizing), preaching the word, showing compassion, gathering in fellowship, defending your faith (apologetics), sharing your testimony (witnessing), and being invitational for corporate worship.
- Outreach (acts of service) need to be acts of love done by the local church that allows people to make a connection with the church that may eventually draw them into fellowship.

**IV. 4 Ways to Implement the Practical Outworking of Community**

**a. Right Picture of Community**

- i. You are part of our community, what gifts, interests, and talents can you leverage to connect with others?
- ii. What are the people's needs and how can you serve them?
- iii. Look for ways to link people in our community circles to church and fellowship events.
- iv. Actively go out seeking to develop relationships always ready to share your testimony.

**b. Continue to Grow in Preparation for Outreach Opportunities**

- i. Be in the word daily
- ii. Check your motivation for gospel focused outreach.
- iii. How can we encourage each other to be accountable to being deliberate about actively reaching out to build relationships?

**c. Engage the Church Members to Identify and Serve in an Opportunity**

At GCBC we have already reached out into the community in many ways. Let's think creatively about opportunities within our community where we can engage as individuals and groups.....

- i. Nursing Home Ministry (Listen, Engage, Encourage, Sing)
- ii. Community Cares
- iii. Summer Children's Vacation Bible School
- iv. Christian Children Camps
- v. Teen Challenge
- vi. Prison Ministries
- vii. Elderly Assistance
- viii. Neighborhood Gatherings
- ix. Invite someone in for a holiday meal
- x. Invite a co-worker to lunch, walk, event
- xi. Focus on hospitality with church visitors
- xii. \_\_\_\_\_ (Each table add *ideas*)
- xiii. \_\_\_\_\_
- xiv. \_\_\_\_\_
- xv. \_\_\_\_\_
- xvi. \_\_\_\_\_

**Commented [JR1]:** I like the emphasis at the beginning that we have gotten into the community and to stay positive – I like mentioning what we are doing – I like the brainstorm idea.

**d. Summer/Fall 2019 Local Outreach Challenge – Corporate Church Events**

- i. Men's Fellowship Breakfast – June 15th
- ii. 10<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration Community Event – July 7th
- iii. Pan-O-Prag Table Outreach by Men's Ministry – July 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>
- iv. Women's Summer Fellowship Retreat – (Insert Dates)
- v. Men's Fall Fellowship Retreat – Sep 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> (tentative)
- vi. Youth Outreach Event?
- vii. Witnessing Outing?
- viii. Others?

**v. Time is Now – July 7<sup>th</sup> GCBC 10<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration – Community Outreach Event**

**a. Why host a Community Outreach Event?**

- The July 7<sup>th</sup> community outreach event will be a celebration of our local church being planted 10 years ago to reach the communities south of the river for Jesus Christ.
- The event helps the community know we are here, what our mission, values and distinctives are as a local church. Most importantly, it highlights our focus on being a "local-community" fellowship that has a heart for Christ centered service, doing the one-another's, and sharing the good news of the gospel. As Christian's this is what we have been called to do, disciple on-another and reach out to the lost sharing the gospel truth in a loving and prayerful manner.

**b. What should you expect as you engage our local community at this outreach event?**

- Attenders are looking for a community atmosphere that has activities, interests, and is engaging for all ages, family status, and religious backgrounds.
- We are to engage them as Christ did, by drawing them out in conversation looking to make a long-term connection with the hope of sharing the gospel down the road. In other words: we are to be “hospitable”; putting the needs of others first, serving them in all ways as a humble servant out of the overflow of God’s love for them through us.
- You should practice “Situational Discipleship/Evangelism”. Which means you engage and interact with awareness and sensitivity to each person recognizing that you need to meet them where they are at in their faith journey. Pray, ask, listen, connect, share, follow-up. Often times people require you to earn the right to engage them on topics like religion, spiritual beliefs, and world views.
- Don’t over think it! Smile, have fun, engage in small talk, inquire about their family, job, hobbies, school. Invite them to participate in the celebration activities.
- Find a common connection or person that you know or another at GCBC knows. Simply show them you care about them and are pleased to talk with them today.
- Allow God’s love to just flow out of you in a loving, patient, and engaging way. Remember, don’t stress, God is sovereign and already knows how each of these engagements is play out in His loving plan.

**Commented [JR2]:** I will be sharing a short gospel presentation so the gospel will go out to people....

**c. Helpful Tips**

1. Focus first on building relationships, understanding, and trust
2. Treat everyone with dignity and respect (Child of God)
3. Extend hospitality offering event information and assistance
4. Invite them to an upcoming event(s)
5. Think about how you can serve them in follow-up contact in a week
6. Remember their name(s) and basic information they share which shows you do care about them and are interested in engaging further
7. Encourage them by linking their interests, hobbies, employment, etc, with others at GCBC or your circle of relationships
8. Don’t hound all their time, but Introduce them to others at the event

9. Be ready to tell them three reasons you choose to attend GCBC
10. Know the distinctives of GCBC, ask them what they look for in a church
11. Be ready to share 3 key points of your testimony while encouraging them to share where they are at in their faith journey

**Acknowledgements:**

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