

Community

Why do we need community?

As we practice the way of Jesus, we need partners for the journey, a community to help us along the way. Jesus invites all who follow him to be a part of a new family. This family of God is not a social club or a group of friends who look, think, and talk similarly, but a community of apprentices following Jesus' way of life through seven rhythms of community - *Celebration, Bearing Burdens, Confession of Sin, Hospitality, Eating Together (Communion), Prayer and Worship, and Generosity*. And despite the work it takes, the fights we will endure, and the learning we will do along the way, together we're figuring out how to be with Jesus, become like him, and do what he did.

1. TEACHING ON COMMUNITY – Being Renewed:

Reading and reflecting on Community in the Scriptures – Psalm 133:1; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Mark 3:31-35; Act 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-35; Romans 12:3-21; Ephesians 4:1-6; Philippians 2:3-4; Colossians 3:12-17; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14

Visit <https://practicingtheway.org/practices/community> to listen to the following teachings on why this practice of community is important what it can do in your life. You can also find recommended reading on this practice.



1

Jesus' Call to Community

Community will set us up to live in a rich web of relationships where we grow and mature into Christlikeness.

2

One of Jesus' Most Radical Ideas: Family

It was radical in the first century, and it's just as radical in the 21st century.

3

A Community of Honor in a Culture of Contempt

For most Westerners, honor is a foreign concept. Ours is a culture of contempt.

4

Trinity & Hospitality

As we look at how the trinity relate to one another we learn about true community.

5

The Stories We Tell Ourselves

Emotionally healthy relationships require the need to stop mind reading and start clarifying expectations.

2. PRACTICE COMMUNITY – Being Intentional:

Visit <https://practicingtheway.org/practices/community> and click on each of these circles for more ideas and resources how to practice community.



Finding your Community

Community doesn't happen by accident; it takes time and effort over the long haul. But where do we start?



Emotional Health & Community Temperature Reading

Your internal emotional world is connected with our external relational world.



The Iceberg & Looking Beneath the Surface

For many of us, our tendency is to avoid or ignore our most difficult emotions.



Mind Reading, Expectations, & Listening

We all make assumptions about the motivations behind people's behavior.



Fighting with Integrity

Some of us are poor at resolving conflict because of wrong beliefs about peacemaking.



Seven Rhythms of Community

Throughout church history we see the family of Jesus adopting seven rhythms of Community.

3. TAKE STEPS TO GROW IN COMMUNITY:

- A. Of these seven rhythms of community, which do you think our community does well? What community rhythms might be some blind spots or things we need to strengthen?
Celebration, Bearing Burdens, Confession of Sin, Hospitality, Eating Together (Communion), Prayer and Worship, and Generosity
- B. Which rhythm/s would you be most excited to explore further?
- C. To grow in this practice, what is **one idea you want to experiment with this coming week / month?** How will you do that?
- D. **Is there someone that you could connect with for mutual encouragement, learning and accountability to deepen in this practice?**¹ It might be your spouse, sibling, close friend, someone in your life group or someone else at this workshop.

¹ This is a practical way we can fulfill our vision together at TCBC "Transforming lives through Christ-centred community"

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).