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A One Year Discipleship Plan  
for City Groups

# THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

Stories are central to our everyday lives. They are powerful and deep with meaning. They cross social and cultural lines. They uniquely connect the storyteller and listener. We use stories to help us make sense of our world and our relation to it.

God is the greatest storyteller of all time and the Gospel is the greatest story ever told.

## *The Gospel Story*

In the beginning, God created everything; the heavens and the earth. He filled creation with animals, fish, plants, and every creeping thing that creeps. But His most precious creation was people. He formed all people in the image of God and they enjoyed a perfect relationship with Him (*Genesis 1-2*).

Then tragedy struck. Through deception and a lie, the enemy, Satan, convinced people that they were better off without God. People willingly sinned and suffered the consequences of separation from God (*Genesis 3*).

This means that all people, you and me, have sinned and without external intervention their sin earns them death and eternal separation from God (*Romans 3:23, 6:23, Isaiah 53:6, Hebrews 9:27*).

But God sent a hero to rescue us. He intervened with His grace, love, and mercy. While we were still in sin and enemies of God, Jesus Christ came to pay the penalty of sin through His death on the cross. Everyone who trusts in Jesus and that He perfectly accomplished all of these things will be saved, not on their own merit, but through Jesus (*Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, 1 Peter 3:18*).

When we are saved, we belong to the body of Christ, the Church. The Church is the saved and sent people of God to share the greatest story ever told and proclaim the excellencies of God in order that more disciples of Jesus would be made (*Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 5: 17-20*).

And as we look to the future, there is a time set by God the Father when Jesus Christ will return to perfectly restore all things once and for all. He will make all things new, His people will dwell with Him forever in perfect peace worshipping Him for all eternity (*Jeremiah 32:36-44, Revelation 7:9-17*).

The Gospel story impacts every area of our lives. It's a story that crosses social and cultural barriers and helps us make sense of the world we live in. It's the foundation on which all Christians stand as we seek to know Jesus and make Him known. As you begin your journey through the City Group Pathway, don't forget the Gospel story and Jesus, our great hero.

# PATHWAY



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# EQUIPPING

- *The Greatest Story Ever Told*
- *Table Of Contents*
- *City Group Pathway*
- *City Groups Missional Communities*

## MODULES

### Module A “Our New Identity”

**Month 1:**  
*UP - “Identity in Christ”*  
W1: Bible Study  
W2: Family Meal  
W3: Equipping  
W4: In Action

**Month 2:**  
*IN - “Identity in the Family of God”*  
W1: Bible Study  
W2: Family Meal  
W3: Equipping  
W4: In Action

**Month 3:**  
*OUT - “Identity as a Witness”*  
W1: Bible Study  
W2: Family Meal  
W3: Equipping  
W4: In Action

**Month 4:**  
*“Living in our New Identity”*  
W1: Bible Study  
W2: Family Meal  
W3: In Action  
W4: Celebration Checkpoint

### Module B “Biblical Community”

**Month 5:**  
*UP - “Community with God”*  
W1: Bible Study  
W2: Family Meal  
W3: Equipping  
W4: In Action

**Month 6:**  
*IN - “Community in the Family of God”*  
W1: Bible Study  
W2: Family Meal  
W3: Equipping  
W4: In Action

**Month 7:**  
*OUT - “Community on Mission”*  
W1: Bible Study  
W2: Family Meal  
W3: Equipping  
W4: In Action

**Month 8:**  
*“Living in Biblical Community”*  
W1: Bible Study  
W2: Family Meal  
W3: In Action  
W4: Celebration Checkpoint

### Module C “Christ’s Mission”

**Month 9:**  
*UP - “On Mission with God”*  
W1: Bible Study  
W2: Family Meal  
W3: Equipping  
W4: In Action

**Month 10:**  
*IN - “On Mission with the Family of God”*  
W1: Bible Study  
W2: Family Meal  
W3: Equipping  
W4: In Action

**Month 11:**  
*OUT - “On Mission in the Nations”*  
W1: Bible Study  
W2: Family Meal  
W3: Equipping  
W4: In Action

**Month 12:**  
*“Living out Christ’s Mission”*  
W1: Bible Study  
W2: Family Meal  
W3: In Action  
W4: Celebration Checkpoint

## APPENDICES/CITATIONS

- *New Testament Reading Plan*
- *Robert Murray Bible Reading Calendar*
- *Citation*

## City Group Pathway | What is it?

Following Jesus is a journey and just as in every journey, one needs to have a good map in order to not get lost along the way. The City Group Pathway is a map to help your group live out every aspect of the Great Commission. It will help you establish discipleship rhythms, apply Citylight's Core Values, and equip your group to effectively multiply disciples of Jesus Christ. The goal for the CG Pathway is for groups and members to "know, love, and worship Jesus" in the context of spiritual formation, community, and mission as we continue to multiply disciples.

## City Group Pathway | How to use it?

The CG Pathway is designed to be a twelve month framework for City Groups. It is designed for both new and existing groups to walk through in order to create healthy monthly rhythms and to be equipped with discipleship tools. There are three modules composed of four months within each module. Each module focuses on one Core Value (spiritual formation, community, and mission). Within each month, the first week is spiritual formation, the second week is a family meal, the third week equips the members with a tool, and the fourth week allows members to practice and celebrate what they have learned that month.

If your group misses a week, pick up where you left off. Just make sure you review and everyone in the group knows where you're at and where you're going in the CG Pathway.

## City Group Pathway | Four weekly rhythms

*Bible Study:* The group will gather for a Bible study focused on the topic for the month. You will see what the Bible has to say about the topic and discuss how to apply what you learned.

*Family Meal:* A potluck style meal that will have 2-3 intentional discussion questions related to previous week's Bible study. For example, "How did what you learn from the Bible affect your life this week?"

*Equipping:* CG Leaders will teach a practical discipleship tool (i.e. reading the Bible, Gospel presentation, praying Scripture, etc). Many of these resources can also be found online in City Group Resources.

*In Action:* The CG will practice what they learned the previous week. For example, if they learned how to share the Gospel, the evening will be spent practicing and role playing with one another to become more comfortable and confident.

# CITY GROUPS ARE **MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES**

## **What is a Missional Community?**

A missional community is a community of Christ followers on mission with God in obedience to the Holy Spirit that demonstrates tangibly and declares creatively the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a specific neighborhood or network of people.

## **A Community of Christians**

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God has redeemed a people for Himself whom He empowers and sends to be His witnesses, as we see in John 20:21 and Matthew 28:16-20. We are called and sent to show a hurting, broken, and dying world that Jesus is who He says He is and did what He said He did. The purpose of Christian community has always been to demonstrate God's character to the world. We do this as individuals, but our communities are to be defined in this way too.

## **On Mission With God**

God is about bringing glory to His name and establishing His kingdom and reign in the world. It's what He's always done throughout redemptive history! He is saving and blessing people through the finished work of Jesus that they would make disciples and bring His kingdom to the world around them. The life of the community is bound up in participating in God's mission in the world and making disciples of Jesus.

## **Demonstrate the Gospel**

Just as Jesus came demonstrating the Kingdom through selfless acts of service, we should actively look for opportunities to meet the felt and real needs of our neighbors and community. We seek to become a blessing to our neighbors, and demonstrate the reality of God's new Kingdom. When you look at Jesus, however, He did not simply stop at healing and meeting needs. He consistently spoke a true message of great hope to those whom He encountered.

## **Declare the Gospel**

A missional community listens to and understands the stories of others in order to be able to tell the Gospel Story in ways that are Good News to those specific people. We want our communities to wrestle with and understand how to speak the good news of Jesus' perfect life, His sacrificial death, and His resurrection in power so that it is indeed good news to their neighbors.

## **A Neighborhood or Network of People**

God's grace in Jesus is good news for those in the church and those outside the church – we all need the Gospel! Just as the Father sent the Son to a specific time, place, and people, so the Spirit does with the church, sending us to specific groups of neighbors. A missional community is seeking to wrap their lives up with the neighborhood or network of people that God has placed them in.

For us, a neighbor or someone in your network is anyone you cannot avoid or anyone who has needs that you have the resources to meet. These individuals may be those who live next door, those you work with, those you play with, or those with whom you share some sort of affinity. They may also be someone you have little in common with but whom God has placed squarely in your path or specifically called or commanded you to care for. A missional community is a group of people who have a common set of people who need the Gospel and are intentionally living lives among them.

## **More than a Bible Study**

A missional community by nature is intended to be more than a typical Bible study.

For us, a missional community is not just a Bible study, it's not just a fellowship group, it's not just a social action club, it's not just a support group, and it's certainly not just a weekly meeting. A healthy City Group includes all of those things over time, but it's a family of missionaries learning to follow Jesus in every area of their lives.

A City Group is a group of people asking "What does loving my city and neighbor really look like?", and realizing Jesus may ask far more of you than you ever thought. The great news though, is that we are experiencing and knowing Jesus where He is on mission to the broken and lost.