



GOD'S COMMUNITY

OUR COMMUNITY

GOD'S PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

**From him the whole body, joined and held together
by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself
up in love, as each part does its work.
EPHESIANS 4:16**

All Scripture quotations are from The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011). All rights reserved.

GOD'S COMMUNITY - OUR COMMUNITY is designed and written for the Kingston Community Church family and its associated small group ministry.

Developed by
KINGSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

TO LOVE AND HONOUR **GOD** IN BEING
DISCIPLES
and helping make disciples of our
LORD JESUS CHRIST MATTHEW 28:18-20

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INTRODUCTION

GODS PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY



One of the most common ways that we speak of the church is as a place or an event. It is somewhere to go to. But of all the ways that the Bible describes the church, this isn't one of them. Instead, the Bible describes the church as God's people in community – local and global.

What is God's intention for His church?

The Bible gives us a clear understanding of the place and purpose God's community has in His plans, and so, our lives!

God defines and displays community in Himself. He invites us into true community, true family. He reveals to us what it means to be part of God's family, a body of believers, a living temple.

This series will grow our understanding and response to a community that God initiates but also invites us to be a part of.

We will see our individual and corporate responsibilities as God's people in Community.

God's community – Our community!

To access a video of the Sunday messages that go with this series, follow the QR code below to go to our website...



To access the audio of the Sunday messages that go with this series, follow the QR code below to go to Spotify...



GOD'S COMMUNITY

THE PEOPLE OF GOD

G O O S P E O P L E I N C O M M U N I T Y



But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 PETER 2:9-10

PERSONAL PREPARATION

In preparation for the Sunday message, and your small group session, what do you think it means that the church is the people of God.

READ SCRIPTURE

Read 1 PETER 2:9-10

MESSAGE NOTES

Listen and take notes from the Sunday morning message or listen online.
<https://www.kingstoncommunitychurch.com> or Spotify.

GROUP STUDY

OPEN IN PRAYER

OPENING QUESTION

What words would you use to describe your family?

SETTING THE SCENE

God lives in community, Father, Son, and Spirit. God is knowable and He reveals Himself to us. He reveals the nature of community, and then invites us into being a part of His community. Invites us to be His people.

The church is the people of God, who stand in community with those God has called across biblical history. The church exists because of the God who called them and formed them in and through Christ.

The church has their origin in the eternal purposes of God. It is the new covenant community of Jesus, rooted in Israel, constructed by Jesus, and inaugurated by the Holy Spirit.

God's community is the people of God. God's community - Our community.

READ SCRIPTURE

Have someone read 1 PETER 2:9-10

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE

What were the main truths you heard from the message on Sunday?

USE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR DISCUSSIONS

- What words are used to describe God's people, God's community in 1 PETER 2:9-10?

- Where else in the Bible do we find these descriptions and how does this enhance our understanding of each?
Cf: GENESIS 17:3-8; DEUTERONOMY 7:6-9

■ What does it mean to be chosen by God? 1 PETER 2:9

- What does the whole story of the Bible reveal about the pattern of God's choosing?
- What is our part in coming to be one of God's people?

■ What is our responsibility, as the people of God? 1 PETER 2:9
Cf: 1 PETER 2:5

- More specifically what does the word 'declare' reveal about what our responsibility is? 1 PETER 2:9

■ How does this passage describe our relationship to God?
1 PETER 2:9-10

- How does this challenge the very individualistic and self-nature of this world and our own hearts?

■ How should the truths in this passage shape our relationship with God?

■ How should the truths in this passage shape our relationships as a church family?

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH PARTICIPANT TO CONTRIBUTE PRAYER AND PRAISE POINTS AND AS A GROUP SHARE IN A TIME OF PRAYER

GOD'S COMMUNITY

THE FAMILY OF GOD

GODS PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY



So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.
GALATIANS 3:26-29

PERSONAL PREPARATION

In preparation for the Sunday message, and your small group session, what do you think it means that the church is the family of God?

READ SCRIPTURE

Read GALATIANS 3:23-4:7

MESSAGE NOTES

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GROUP STUDY

OPEN IN PRAYER

OPENING QUESTION

How much has your relationship with your parents influenced your view of your heavenly Father?

SETTING THE SCENE

The church is not a club or an organisation that we can participate in or opt-out of. God's people are our family. God's church, the family of God, is a group of people in relationship with Him, who do life together.

We are made family by the person and work of Jesus. We are a family that is increasingly to look like our older brother, Jesus.

God's community is the family of God. God's community is our community.

READ SCRIPTURE

Have someone read GALATIANS 3:23-4:7

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE

What were the main truths you heard from the message on Sunday?

USE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR DISCUSSIONS

- How is our relationship with God described in GALATIANS 3:23-4:7

- What was the purpose of the Law when it came to God's plan to build His family? GALATIANS 3:23-4:7

- How has God revealed this family relationship to us? GALATIANS 4:6

- What is it that makes us one of the family of God?
GALATIANS 3:26-29; 4:3-5
 - What has no influence on our ability to be one of the family of God? GALATIANS 3:28
- How has 'family' been a part of God's eternal plans and purposes?
- How would you describe the intimacy we get to experience as children of God? GALATIANS 4:6
- What is the inheritance we get to share in? GALATIANS 4:7
- How should the truths in this passage shape our relationship with God?
- How should the truths in this passage shape our relationships as a church family?

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH PARTICIPANT TO CONTRIBUTE PRAYER AND PRAISE POINTS AND AS A GROUP SHARE IN A TIME OF PRAYER

GOD'S COMMUNITY

THE BODY OF CHRIST

GODS PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY



Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
1 CORINTHIANS 12:31

PERSONAL PREPARATION

In preparation for the Sunday message, and your small group session, what do you think it means that the church is the body of Christ?

READ SCRIPTURE

Read 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

MESSAGE NOTES

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GROUP STUDY

OPEN IN PRAYER

OPENING QUESTION

If you had to give up one body part, which would it be? Why?

SETTING THE SCENE

When God entered this world in the person of Jesus, He took on a physical body. Jesus demonstrated the love of God clearly, tangibly, and boldly. Christ continues His work in the world through the Church. We are to be demonstrating the love of God clearly, tangibly, and boldly. Functioning as the Body of Christ.

It is important we grasp the relationship between Christ and the church. Jesus founded the church and is the expression of God on this earth. The church is God's people gathered around Christ, the head of the body.

Our hearts, minds and actions are to be shaped by the one who reveals to us what it looks like to be in God's community. Jesus Christ – Son of God, Son of man.

God's community is the body of Christ. God's community - Our community.

READ SCRIPTURE

Have someone read 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE

What were the main truths you heard from the message on Sunday?

USE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR DISCUSSIONS

■ In what ways is unity stressed in 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-13?

- What additional lessons are being stressed/taught when it comes to the church being a body in 1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-20?

- What in the church's body life would be the equivalent of the 'eye' or the 'foot'?
 - What are examples in KCC of 'the weaker', the 'less honourable', the 'unpresentable', the 'presentable' parts? 1 CORINTHIANS 12:21-26

- How are we to be treating each other with the church as a body? 1 CORINTHIANS 12:21-26
 - What supports this?
 - What impedes this?

- What does it mean we are the 'body of Christ'? 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

- What do we learn about gifts and the place, purpose, and priority of them? 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27-31

- How should the truths in this passage shape our relationship with God?

- How should the truths in this passage shape our relationships as a church family?

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR EACH PARTICIPANT TO CONTRIBUTE PRAYER AND PRAISE POINTS AND AS A GROUP SHARE IN A TIME OF PRAYER

GOD'S COMMUNITY

A LIVING TEMPLE

GODS PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY



Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16-17

PERSONAL PREPARATION

What do you understand it to mean that we are 'God's temple'?

READ SCRIPTURE

Read 1 CORINTHIANS 3

MESSAGE NOTES

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GROUP STUDY

OPEN IN PRAYER

OPENING QUESTION

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word 'temple'?

SETTING THE SCENE

Church is the dwelling of God, the presence of God in this world. In Christ, God's people are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. This shapes our relationship with God and with each other, and ultimately points back to Christ.

The people of God, with all our flaws and imperfections, are the visible temple of God in this world today. We are being built into a spiritual structure. God's temple. We are a priesthood. It is both in and through the church that God is working.

God's community is a living temple. God's community - Our community.

READ SCRIPTURE

Have someone read 1 CORINTHIANS 3

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE

What were the main truths you heard from the message on Sunday?

USE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR DISCUSSIONS

■ At the start of this passage, what is revealed about the nature of who's in charge of the church? 1 CORINTHIANS 3:5

■ What is the place of leaders within the church? 1 CORINTHIANS 3:4

- What risk is there in human leadership of the church?

■ Who makes the church grow? 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6-9

- What is our part in the church growth process?

■ What is the foundation of this spiritual building God is making? 1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-15

■ How are we a living temple? 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16-17

■ What is our role as a living temple? 1 Peter 2:4-10

■ What is central to us being wise? 1 CORINTHIANS 3:18-23

■ How should the truths in this passage shape our relationship with God?

■ How should the truths in this passage shape our relationships as a church family?

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