

Master Planned Community

“Doing Life Together” – Acts 2:42-47 – September 3, 2006

Overview of Our Series Together

MASTER PLANNED COMMUNITY		
A 40-Day Emphasis on Community at Grace Fellowship UMC		
Date	Message Title	Description
Aug. 13	<i>Created for Community</i>	We were made for true community in our marriages, families, friendships, small groups, and church
Aug. 20	<i>Authenticity</i>	The environment for true community in our marriages, families, friendships, small groups, and church
Aug. 27	<i>Support and Encouragement</i>	The air for true community in our marriages, families, friendships, small groups, and church
Sept 3	<i>Doing Life Together</i>	The food for true community in our marriages, families, friendships, small groups, and church
Sept 9	GF's 10 th Birthday Celebration/Groundbreaking @ 6pm in Arena; register online	
Sept 10	<i>Worshipping Together</i>	The fuel for true community in our marriages, families, friendships, small groups, and church [10 hrs A-1]
Sept 17	<i>Confrontation</i>	The aerobics for true community in our marriages, families, friendships, small groups, and church
Sept 24	<i>Forgiving Each Other</i>	The healing necessary for true community in our marriages, families, friendships, small groups, church

Review

- God is community: Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and He created us (in His image) for community, togetherness, relationships, fellowship.
- God has given us His Spirit to live inside of us in order to give us the power to live the relational principles He has given us:
 1. Be transparent and authentic with one another (Ephesians 4:25).
 2. Love, support, and encourage one another (Romans 12:9-16).
 3. Spend time together doing life (Acts 2:42-47).
 4. Worship together (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:25).
 5. Go to your brother when he hurts you and speak the truth in love about how he has hurt you (Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-17; Ephesians 4:15).
 6. Forgive one another when you hurt each other (Ephesians 4:30-32; Matt 18:21-35).

Relational Principle #3: Doing Life Together

You cannot have true community with your spouse, family, friends, small group members, or church members unless you spend time doing life with them.

- John Ortberg: “People rarely drift into community. Psychologist Alan McGinnis notes that Rule Number One for entering into deep friendships sounds deceptively simple: Assign top priority to your relationships. Ironically, we tend to devote massive amounts of time to making money, running errands, and succeeding at our jobs, but we neglect giving our most valuable possession – time – to the experience for which we were created: community. The requirement for true intimacy (community) is chunks of unhurried time. If you think you can fit deep community into cracks of an overloaded schedule – think again. Wise people do not try to microwave friendship, parenting, or

marriage. You can't do community in a hurry. You can't listen in a hurry. You can't mourn in a hurry with those who mourn, or rejoice in a hurry with those who rejoice.”

- Rick Warren: “The importance of things can be measured by how much time we are willing to invest in them. The more time you give to something, the more you reveal its importance and value to you. If you want to know a person's priorities, just look at how they use their time. Time is your most precious gift because you only have a set amount of it. You can make more money, but you can't make more time. When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you'll never get back. Your time is your life. That is why the greatest gift you can give someone is your time. It is not enough just to say relationships are important; we must prove it by investing time in them.... the best way to spell love is T-I-M-E.”

The Early Church Modeled Doing Life Together (Acts 2:42-47)

Major Observation: These people did life together!

- What they did together
 1. studied God's Word together (v.42a)
 2. fellowshiped together (v.42b)
 3. ate _____ together (vv.42c, 46b)
 4. prayed together (v.42d)
 5. witnessed miracles together (v.43)
 6. shared with each other (vv.44-45)
 7. worshipped together (vv.46a,47a)
 8. enjoyed each other (v.47b)
- How often they did these things together: daily (v.46a)
- The results of doing life together
 1. everyone was filled with awe (v.43)
 2. Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (v.47c)

Jesus Modeled Doing Life Together (Mark 3:13-19)

- Application Question: Who am I spending regular time... just to “be with”?

Eight Great Killers of Doing Life Together (circle yours)

1. Making too many commitments
 - Two root problems behind making too many commitments:
 - 1) Pride – believing that I am infinite (a god) when I am actually finite (a human)

Psalm 131:1-3 – My heart is not proud, O Lord, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul with in me. O Israel, put your hope in the Lord both now and forevermore.
 - 2) Fear of Man – caring more about what other people think than what God thinks (or what those closest to me think)

John 12:43 – For they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

Proverbs 29:25 - Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

- **Application #1:** Lord, have I made too many commitments? _____
Lord, please show me what the root problem is for me? _____
_____ Lord, I confess my sin of _____
that has led me to make too many commitments. I thank You for Your forgiveness through the shed blood of Your Son Jesus. I now ask You to show me what commitments You would have me drop and how to drop them: _____
I now ask You for the power to do what I know You want me to do.
2. Too large a “__span of care _____”
 - The lesson of Jethro to Moses (Exodus 18)
 - Even Jesus (God become human) limited His span of care to 12 (Mark 3:13-19)
 - **Application #2:** What is my “span of care” count? God 1 + Family ___ + Work Plug-ins ___ + Weekly friends ___ + SG 1 + Serve 1 + Other ___ = Total _____. Lord, do I need to decrease my span of care? _____
If so, what does that look like, Lord? _____
 3. The __television_____
 - **2 Corinthians 11:3** - *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
 - **Application #3:** Lord, how do You want me to change my TV habits? _____

 4. The __computer_____ : Internet and emails
 - **Application #4:** Lord, how do You want me to change my computer habits? _____
 5. Too much __stuff_____ to maintain
 - **Philippians 4:11-13** - *I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.*
 - **Application #5:** As radical as it sounds, what would it be like to have one less car? One less pet? One less computer? One less electronic gadget? A smaller house? Ten less outfits? _____ Lord, how do You want me to simplify my life? _____
 6. Love of __money_____
 - **1 Timothy 6:6-10** - *But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*
 - **Application #6:** Lord, have I put money on the throne of my life? _____
Lord, are there any steps You want me to take here? _____

7. Workaholism_____ and other-isms

- **Ephesians 5:15-18** - *Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*
- **Application #7:** Lord, what is my application here? _____

8. Relational __friction_____

- **Application #8:** Lord, am I avoiding spending time with certain key people in my life in an attempt to not have to deal with some issues between us? _____
- **Matthew 5:23-24** - *Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.*
- **Matthew 18:15** - *If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.*
- **Application #9:** Lord, are there any reconciling conversations that I need to have? _____

Application #10: Twenty-Five Ideas of Doing Life Together with Your Spouse, Family, Friend, or Small Group (circle 3 of them to do)

1. Go on a walk together. 2. Go on a picnic together. 3. Ride bikes together.
4. Play a board game together. 5. Play cards together. 6. Watch old family videos together. 7. Come to a live Audience of One together (Tues Noon; Thurs 8pm; or below). 8. Join a small group together (SuperGroup, Sept 17,20). 9. Serve at church together. 10. Go to the zoo together. 11. Go look at the new church construction (but stay outside the fence, please) and pray together for your church. 12. Look through old picture albums together. 13. Bake cookies together. 14. Go to a state park together. 15. Plan an anonymous bless-another-person project and do it secretly together. 16. Paint a room in the house together. 17. Play charades together. 18. Read the Bible together. 19. Worship to a Praise CD together. 20. Go on a date together. 21. Make paper airplanes together. 22. Have a pillow fight. 23. Discuss this message together. 24. Other: _____
25. Other: _____

Next Sunday's 10th Birthday Gift to God: 10 Hours of Praise

8:45-9:45	Church: Bass/Leggett/Martin	1:45-2:45	Coolidge/Jok (couple in Indonesian)
9:45-10:45	Lewis/Arneson	2:45-3:45	Daystar Project/Seba
10:45-11:45	Church: Bass/Leggett/Martin	3:45-4:45	Mims/Lamey/Peairson (HYMNS)
11:45-12:45	Bass/Sparks	4:45-5:45	Josiah/Helbig
12:45-1:45	Walker/Couch/Kellogg (child)	5:45-6:45	RPM Band/Sparks (segway into rpm)

Discussion Questions with Family, Friends, and Small Group

1. Read Acts 2:42-47 and discuss how the early church did life together.
2. Read Mark 3:13-19 and discuss how Jesus and the disciples did life together.
3. Which of the “Eight Great Killers of Doing Life Together” are most problematic for you? (share the corresponding Scripture) What is an application for you?
4. What are some ideas from Application #10 that you want to try to do? (add your own)