



The 3 Aims of Gospel Community

At Redeemer, we want to tell the story of Jesus as a community. That's why Sunday Gatherings are vitally important to us as a local church. On Sundays we come to receive from God and to worship him, together.

During the week, we want to *keep* telling the story of Jesus as a community. Because of this, Redeemer gathers in smaller groups across the city. We call these Gospel Communities. They gather weekly in different forms, but with three consistent aims; word, family, and mission.

Depending on the way in which a Gospel Community may gather on a particular week, one of these aims may be more strongly experienced and expressed than others - but it is our hope that all three of them are present in the lives of our Gospel Community members in their lives throughout the week.

WORD

Learning Truth

2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 19:7-10

God IS truth. He reveals the truth of who He is in his holy scriptures and through the person and work of Jesus Christ. We want to know God more through His Word. This is why we want to be Word-centered people. "Learning truth" in Gospel Communities means that we regularly engage with God's Word through the scriptures. We gather on Sundays. We discuss the scriptures, we wrestle with them, we let them seep into our hearts, and we obey.

Walking in Truth

2 Corinthians 4:6, 2 John 4

Our theology and our doctrine should inform the function of our lives. We walk in these truths in the everyday ins-and-outs of our life. We develop 'gospel lenses' so we see the whole of our lives through the reality of the gospel. We "walk in truth" by allowing our gospel lenses to inform who we are as parents, spouses, friends, co-workers, etc. "Walking in the truth" happens in Gospel Communities through the power of the Spirit, through learning truth, and through intentionality. It's living and speaking the truths of Jesus into the everyday stuff of life.

FAMILY

Loving One Another

John 13:35

We are called to love one another. Christ's disciples are to put other people before themselves. The early church devoted itself to one another. As we seek to obey the 'one another' imperatives and commands in scripture, we're formed as disciples by extending the love of Christ. We share meals together, support one another, handle conflict gently and with grace. We seek to listen well and speak slowly. We "pray unceasingly" together.

Sharing All Things

Acts 2:44-45

We share our lives with each other. Benevolence - giving to others in our body who have need, actually *begins* in Gospel Community. We take meals to people who need them, we loan our cars to others, we babysit children, we help others fix their kitchen sink. It also means that we actually share our emotions and fears, our victories and our failures. We confess our sins to one another and pray for one another. We share the responsibilities of the GC so that everyone can use the gifts God has given them. We are a family.

MISSION

Living Out

Matthew 28:19

We live with gospel intentionality in the ordinary places of our life. We make time to hang out on the front porch and talk with our neighbors. We meet, visit with, and talk to other parents at our children's school and in their sports. At the neighborhood pool or playground we strike up a conversation. At the office we grab lunch with a co-worker. As we do these things - we "live out" the truths that we are learning and walking in. "Living out" doesn't mean we add something to our to-do list, it means we engage with gospel intentionality in the places we already *are*. We serve our city and our community, partnering with our church and other city organizations for the good of our neighbors.

Inviting In

Matthew 9:2

The majority of people who become Christians do so in the context of relationships with other Christians. Because they were invited into a believing community they were exposed to the saving message of the gospel in both deed and word. This is what it means that we are "inviting in". When we have a BBQ, we invite a neighbor *and* some GC family. If we hit the bike trails with GC family, we invite a non-believing friend who rides. We think intentionally about how to mingle our everyday relationships with non-believers and our everyday relationships with our GC.