

# 2020 Community Groups

## WEEKLY GUIDE

### August 16th, 2020

#### “One Story at a time”

Pastor Aaron continued our new series this week entitled: “One Story at a time;” and it centers around a vision for Hillside. Last week we talked about experiencing God's love and “One of the primary ways we experience God's love together as a church is when we gather for worship. We recognize the weekend is important and we love the time together. But if all we have is a weekend gathering to attend, and if all we get from 'church' is a place we go to but not people we become, we are missing out.” This week's message focuses on 'Growing in Community' and our deep dependence on each other.

#### Community Prayer:

Everlasting Father, your faithfulness in our lives has allowed us another opportunity to gather to study your Holy Word and grow in community. We know that your desire is that we become more like Jesus, through the study and application of your Word in our lives on a daily basis. Help us grab hold of this message today, and embrace and apply these five transformative catalysts as individuals and as a Church; in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

#### Opening Questions

- What does it mean to be a church?
- What are the marks of a church?

### EXPLORATION

Read the passages below...what can you learn about what it means to follow Jesus from these passages? (Have someone read from their bible)

#### Romans 12: 1-2

1. How do we conform to the pattern of this world (sometimes not being aware of it)?
2. Sometimes we think of transformation as a heart issue, but scripture here talks about a renewing of our mind. Why is that important and how do you tap into that to discern God's will on your life?
3. How can we offer our bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God? (What things of this world should you put on the shelf in order to please God?)



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4. Why is the Word of God so important for us as Followers of Jesus? Talk about the ways you dig into God's Word...What disciplines do you have that help to keep you on track?
5. How do you learn what God's will is for your life?

### **5 Catalysts for continuing to Grow in Community**

#### **Authenticity: 'love must be sincere'**

##### **Romans 12: 9-10**

6. What is your definition of sincerity in the context of this scripture?
7. Hypocrisy is the opposite of sincerity; how can hypocrisy interfere with your transformed life?

##### **1 Timothy 1: 5**

8. How does love help us to avoid hypocrisy and maintain 'sincere faith'?
9. This passage speaks of a pure heart. Can you think of times when you struggled with having a pure heart and how that showed up in your relationships?

##### **1 Peter 1: 22**

10. How does obedience to the Word of God purify us and allow us to love each other deeply? Think back to times when you felt or experienced deep love and then reflect on your walk with God...where they tied together?

#### **Spiritual Growth**

##### **Romans 12: 11-12**

Zeal - earnestness, diligence, carefulness, being passionate

11. Why is it important for us to maintain our zeal in all seasons?
12. Describe what spiritual fervor means to you?

**Joyful in hope:** the joy of the Lord is your strength (Nehemiah 8:10); **patient in**

**affliction:** God is an ever-present help in our time of trouble (Psalms 46:1);

**faithful in prayer:** Do not be anxious about anything (Philippians 4: 6-7)

#### **Service: 'serving the Lord'**

##### **The middle of verse 11: 'serving the Lord'**

13. Why is service so important for Followers of Christ? Who gave us the perfect example of this? What was the occasion?



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### **Generosity: 'share with the Lord's people'**

#### **Romans 12: 13**

14. Give examples of how you have served others in the last month?
15. What are some obstacles/excuses we could use for not doing this?

### **Empathy: Celebration & Mourning: 'rejoice and mourn' in every season**

#### **Romans 12: 15**

16. What are some ways you have shown empathy to others during this pandemic season?

**The fact that empathy needs to be one of the catalysts means that there will be disappointment, confusion, and frustration at times.**

## **THE TAKEAWAY**

In order for us to grow in Community we need to incorporate these 5 Catalysts:

1. Authenticity: 'love must be sincere'
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Service: 'serving the Lord'
4. Generosity: 'share with the Lord's people'
5. Empathy: Celebration & Mourning

The major obstacle for not doing this is ME (us) and PRIDE  
**The remedy is in the relationships... we need other people**

**May the Lord Keep you and bless you as you live a life that is Growing in Community centered around Christ.**



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### PRAYER REQUESTS

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