

APPRENTICE TO LEADER

Session 4: Together – Community

Live life in community with other believers. Invest in each other, care for each other, and bless one another. Share stories and glorify Jesus together!!!

Session 4: TOGETHER - Community

Community is a gift that is given to humans by God.

A) When our lives overlap in _____ and _____, we lose our _____. B) We are also called to _____ God in our relationships with each other.

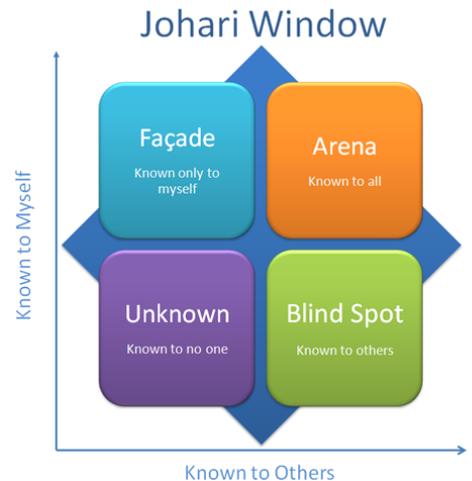
Community reflects the nature of God in the _____.

C) It is impossible and heretical to build the Kingdom of God _____.

There are two main reasons we avoid community and/or keep it at a distance.

1) _____: I don't _____ community! 2) _____: I don't _____ community!

*The culture & campus we live in is _____ & _____ about asking for help.



Community as a Witness

John 17: 20 I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, **21** that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— **23** I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Jesus gives the unbelieving world _____.

The world is _____ to Jesus when they see a unified community.

Community as Reconciliation

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. **26** "In your anger do not sin"[d]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, **27** and do not give the devil a foothold.... **29** Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

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- What phrases do you find yourself resistant towards or challenged by?

- Jesus orchestrated conflict among the disciples (Mark 3:13-19).

Biblical conflict deepens trust in a relationship and helps us mature in extending and receiving

God's grace. When you lovingly* correct someone, you are not competing with _____, you

are competing against _____ and _____ ! The goal of conflict is to win

_____ and _____. (Matt 5:21-24 & Matt 18:15-17).

**“We belong to Jesus for eternity with one another. The one who looks upon his brother and sister in Christ should know that they will be eternally united with them. Thus God himself taught us to meet one another as God has met us in Jesus (God has met us with humility, mercy, and forgiveness through Jesus).” –Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

- What is each person's style of handling conflict? (Ex: Passive aggressive in conflict? Disengaged in conflict? Direct in conflict? Overpowering in conflict?) Realize that each style has its brokenness and needs to be redeemed by Jesus. How can we better practice reconciliation with our different styles?

Pictures of Community

Acts 2: 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- What are the characteristics of this Christian community?
- How has Christian community shaped your life up to this point? How have you become connected to the InterVarsity community, and how has that specifically affected you? What's been most challenging?

PLAN

In our small groups we not only hear God's Word but we also actively respond to it. Practicing intentional, Jesus-centered community is something that needs to go beyond this room. So we're going to spend some time now creating an active response to what we've read and discussed so far using the questions below.

- Making disciples and building a community takes place outside of your once a week small group meeting time. It is something that happens through day-to-day life. If you were leading a small group community on campus,

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what things could you do on a daily basis to make disciples and build community within your small group?
(I.E.-Eat lunch together)

Fill In The Blank Answers:

(A) Mission, Community, Rough Edges

(B) Reflect, Trinity

(C) Alone, Insecurity, Deserve, Pride, Need, Resistant, Slow,

Community As Witness Fill In The Blanks: The Right To Examine Our Credibility, Drawn

Community As Reconciliation Fill In The Blanks: Them, Their Sin, The Work Of The Enemy In Their Life, Them Over To Jesus, Be In Reconciled Relationship.