

# Community/Church Module

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## ***BEFORE YOU ARRIVE (ALLOW 90 MINUTES)***

- Prepare the “Community” Bible study
- Take a spiritual gifts inventory<sup>1</sup> and the short (online) version of the Myers-Briggs test if you haven’t taken them recently.

## ***QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS OVER DINNER (ABOUT 60 MINUTES)***

- What concerns do you have about leaving your community and finding a new one?
  
- What is your Meyers Briggs type? Does that surprise you? Why or why not?
  
- What did you learn about yourself from the spiritual gifts inventory?

## ***VIDEO QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS***

- 1) What did you hear?
- 2) What surprised you?
- 3) What encouraged you?

## ***AFTER DINNER***

### **1) READ AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING “ALUMNI TIPS”**

“I wish I had known...

...that life was about to completely change. Seek out those close relationships that you know will always be there for you and do anything for you: parents, close friends, family, of course JESUS, and make them a priority.”

...that when you get to a new place, you should put some roots down. Don’t leave every other weekend!”

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<sup>1</sup> The Myers-Briggs is available at [www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp](http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/jtypes2.asp). An easy to use gifts test is available at [www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF\\_MYCS\\_030526\\_Spiritual\\_Gifts\\_Survey.pdf](http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_MYCS_030526_Spiritual_Gifts_Survey.pdf)



- Hebrews 3:13
- Hebrews 10:24-25

**Read the following passages. In what ways does the Lord ask us to relate to one another? (Highlight key words and phrases). For each passage, look carefully at the broader context: who is God asking us to relate to in this way?**

- John 13:34-35 – “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
- Hebrews 3:12-13 – “See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.”
- Hebrews 10:24-25 – “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the day approaching.”
- Romans 12:10 – “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”
- Romans 15:7 – “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”
- I Thessalonians 5:11 – “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”
- I Thessalonians 5:15 – “Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.”

- Galatians 5:13 – “We, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.”
  
- Galatians 6:2 – “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
  
- James 5:16 – “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”
  
- Colossians 3:13 – “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”
  
- Colossians 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”
  
- Ephesians 4:32 – “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you.”
  
- Ephesians 5:21 – “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”
  
- I Peter 3:8 – “Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.”
  
- I Peter 4:8-10 – “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins, Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

### **Discuss**

- What phrases stand out to you the most in the “one-another” verses?

- What aspects do you appreciate the most in your relationships?
- Which is the most difficult for you to offer others?
- How do you balance your need for community with believers with the need to reach out to not-yet-believers?
- What are the good and bad effects of technology on finding community?

3) ANTICIPATE TOGETHER (15 MINUTES FOR DISCUSSION)

**As you think about life after college...**

- What things about community will stay the same for you?
- What things do you anticipate will change?
- What can you do now to prepare?

4) DISCUSSION OF MBTI AND SPIRITUAL GIFT INVENTORY RESULTS (ABOUT 20 MINUTES FOR DISCUSSION)

**How might the things you have learned about yourself from these tools apply to your contribution to community?**

5) READ THROUGH AND DISCUSS THE TOPIC OF CHURCH (ABOUT 15 MINUTES FOR DISCUSSION)

**One of the most important things you can do during your transition time is to find a church to get connected with.**

“Each Christian should select his church because he is convinced that within its particular structure he will find the greatest opportunities for spiritual growth, the greatest

satisfaction for his human needs, and the greatest chance to be of helpful service to those around him.” (Billy Graham, *Peace with God*)

### **Some questions to consider**

- Are you looking for a specific denomination?
- Do you have specific beliefs your church would need to match?
- Do you prefer a particular type of worship style?
- Are there ministries /programs that you could see yourself involved with?
- Do you prefer a smaller or a larger church?
- How important is the location of the church in relationship to where you live?

### **Practical tips**

- If a church has a website, check it out before you visit, maybe even before you move there.
- Plan what church you will visit before the weekend. Sunday morning isn't a good time to decide that!
- Ask people you meet in the area for recommendations.
- Take a friend with you if possible.
- Check online or ask when you visit for the church's mission statement and doctrinal beliefs.
- Narrow your search down to 2 or 3 churches and attend each for 3 or 4 weeks in a row before making a final decision.
- Realize that no church is perfect, but look for the one that fits you best.
- PRAY...for wisdom and discernment in choosing a church and for patience as you look.
- Live fully in the place where you are. (Because you can't live where you are *not!*)
- *Pray* for new relationships and for wisdom in where and how you become involved.
- When you choose a church, get involved, but avoid making too many commitments all at once. It's almost always best to start by choosing one study/activity/service area and do it well.
- Avoid becoming isolated.
- Be willing to take some risks. It can be hard to feel like you are always initiating or stepping out of your comfort zone, but know that it will pay off.

### **6) TAKE TIME TOGETHER TO JOURNAL (ABOUT 10 MINUTES FOR WRITING/REFLECTION)**

- What are your biggest fears about life after college?
- What did you learn about yourself from the MBTI and spiritual gifts inventory?
- What is one thing you could begin to apply right now from the Community Study?
- If you were graduating and entering the work world tomorrow, what is one thing you would hope to apply from this session?

- What scripture influenced or encouraged you the most from this session?