



Finding “The Rhythm” in Community Groups

Inspired by CH. 7 in *Community* by Brad House

Dear Grace Church Community Leaders and Hosts,

The *rhythm*.

The *rhythm* is “the when, where and what of community.”

Finding a Rhythm that will work for your group might take some time. We want groups to have flexibility to adapt to what works for their individual groups in regard to time, day of the week, and group activity. Here are some questions to eventually get addressed within your group to discover your group's *rhythm*:

- Why do we do what we do when we gather?
- Is it life giving or life taking? How can we adjust?
- Are we keeping both discipleship and mission in view and are we forming intentional rhythms throughout the week, month or year that reflect both areas?
- What can we do that will help new-comers feel less awkward?
- How can we engage non-Christians?
- Should we meet in a public place once a month?
- Should we meet on a separate night of the week for dinner or dessert?
- Can we serve a particular neighborhood or partner with a particular cause once a month?
- Should we partner with other Community Groups for outreaches and events?

Where do we start?

1. With prayer. Ask the Spirit of God to guide you, fill you, envision you, and empower you.
2. Invite the Community Group to pray (individually and together as a group).
3. Ask your group for ideas.
4. Ask other Community Group Leaders what they're doing?
5. Read the chapter titled “Rhythm” in the book *Community* by Brad House

Examples of things you can do as Community Group:

- Sit together on a Sunday AM.
- Have your men meet early in the AM once a month and that evening have the ladies meet (this way the men can babysit!).

- Go out to eat and/or drinks and/or dessert as a Community Group. The goal? To simply hang out and get to know each other better. Invite non-Christians into the mix.
- Have dinner *before* Community Group – once a month.
- Have dinner *during* Community Group beginning conversation around the meal, transitioning into a more comfortable seating area after dinner for more conversation and prayer. Then close with a song or two.
- Consider a pancake breakfast or waffle breakfast for a particular neighborhood – pick a home in the Community Group that can host this. Consider rotating the host home.
- Have a neighborhood BBQ, introducing your neighbors to your Community Group.
- Think of a service project the Community Group could do together.
- Consider pregnancy center, foster home, school, nursing home, etc close to you and how you could serve them.

We're not recommending that you do ALL the things mentioned in this document. They're just some ideas. We recommend you pray and then try a few of the above mentioned ideas or come up with some of your own. Eventually you will discover a *rhythm* for your Community Group that uniquely reflects/serves your group.

Remember, this is going to take time. We are in this for the long haul! Steve and I can help you (and your group) find your *rhythm*. You are not alone in your Community Group.

Try not to be discouraged if you don't have 100% "buy in" regarding a suggested rhythm. Be patient, set the example, listen to ideas, discuss it with the leadership, and pray.

There are many examples in chapter 7, entitled "Rhythms", in the book *Community*.

James, Steve, and I are very grateful for your leadership and willingness to serve! Thank you for partnering with us in the mission of Grace Church.

grace and peace,
Heath