

SMALL GROUP COMMUNITY | WEEK 3

Think | Spend some time pouring over the Scriptures below. How do they help you prepare for community? What is the focus of each passage? It is so very important, as you begin to investigate biblical community at College Park, for you to enter this season with Christ's heart for those who will be in your group. Although you will benefit greatly from others, it is of great value that you have a vision for how they will benefit from having you in their lives. This is not meant to be a prideful sort of vision, but rather, a vision of how you can be poured out for others.

Philippians 2: 3-4

Acts 20:35

Romans 15:1-31

John 4:7-11

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Consider this material from College Park's Small Group Leader's Handbook:

Biblical community exists for God's glory, not my satisfaction (Eph. 2:19-21)

The worldly approach to community is a "what's in it for me?" attitude. We tend to join groups if they benefit us: We show up when it's convenient, and we drop out when we no longer feel like participating. In contrast, biblical community is meant to glorify God more than it is meant to benefit me. It's absolutely, essentially beneficial to believers, but it won't always *feel* that way. It might feel boring, inconvenient, or uncomfortable at times.

We may, at times, be tempted to drop participation in community or reshape it so it is more "fun" for us, but the Bible calls us to be part of it and to participate in it to God's glory.

Pray | Ask God to continue to lead you in this process. Pray for the Community Life staff that may be helping you find a group. Pray for your new leaders and those who will be in your Small Group. Pray for them in accordance with the themes in the Scriptures above.

Do | Note the differences between biblical community and the community found in the places listed below; use this exercise to elevate the reason why community, according to the Scriptures, is so important.

1. In a local bar
2. In a Country Club
3. In a fraternity or sorority
4. On a basketball team
5. In the military
6. In a book club
7. In a neighborhood association
8. On an online special interest community