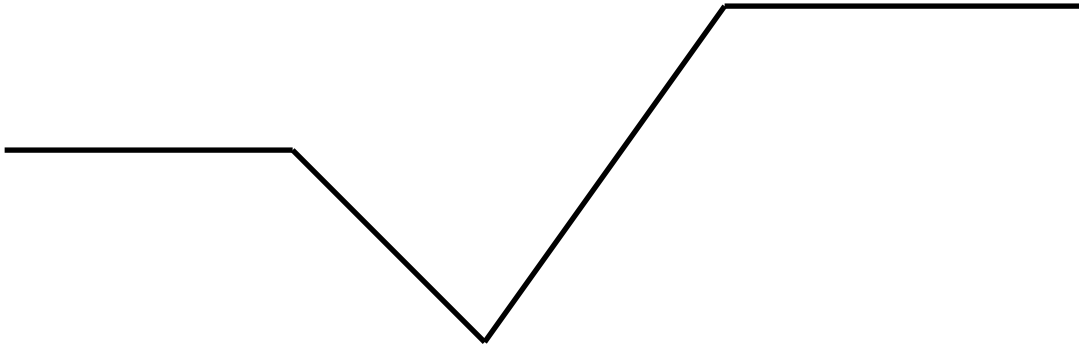


# Session 1: Why community groups?



## 1. Creation

**Turn to Genesis 1:26-27**

What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

**Turn to Genesis 2:18**

This is before sin enters the picture. What can that tell us about ourselves?

## 2. Fall

**Turn to Genesis 3:14-19**

Which relationships are affected by the fall? Why do you think we were cursed this way?



### 3. Redemption

#### Read Ephesians 2:1-10

What does this passage say about our state before Jesus saved us vs. after Jesus saved us?

Before	After

#### Read Ephesians 2:11-22

What does this passage say about our state before Jesus saved us vs. after Jesus saved us?

Before	After



## The Church

- Eph. 2:19-22 - Citizens of the Kingdom, members of God's family, a holy "building"
- Eph. 2:20 - Built upon Jesus and the Apostles
  - ~1000 New Testament commands, ~60 "one-anothers"
- 2 Cor. 5:18-20 - Given the ministry of reconciliation

## 4. Restoration

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

*- Revelation 21:1-4*

*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" - Revelation 7:9-10*

## Reflection

- How does all this compare with what we might say is a non-Christian view on human relationships and community?
- How does all this help us plan and structure the life of our church?



## Community Group Structure

Vintage Community Groups are small groups of people who discuss the Bible together, share their lives together, and live like missionaries together.

- Structure
  - Led by Vintage member(s)
  - 5-20 people
  - Hosted in homes
  - Not grouped by affinity, age, life stage, or location
  - Grow organically and through the Connections Process
  - Multiply by planting other Community Groups
- Priorities
  - Make disciples (Matthew 28:16-20):
    - Know the Gospel: Learning from the Bible together
    - Live the Gospel: Sharing our lives together
    - Advance the Gospel: Living on mission together
  - Doubter, seeker, and follower friendly
- Accountability
  - Organizational: Leaders > Coaches > Community Groups Director > Executive Pastor > Board of Elders
  - Spiritual: Members > Deacons > Elders > Jesus

## Coaching

Community Group Coaches are put in place to assist, care for, and help shepherd community group leaders. They're there to help you be supported you in your role, connected with church leadership, and growing in faithfulness and fellowship with the church.

Expect monthly meetings with your coach initially to establish a coaching relationship, followed by regular but less frequent check ins (you and your coach can work out the frequency that is most helpful for you). Your coach is available to assist or connect you to resources as needed.

