FOUNDATIONS FOR COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 How have you been blessed by community group or a similar ministry in the past? In what ways have community groups been a help to you

in your Christian life? What are you most looking forward to about being back together in community groups?

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2 Let's take a moment to study our foundations for community. One of our core values at Gospel Grace Church is Christian Community. Take some time to discuss the core value itself, then answer the questions below it.
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY: Christians are born into a new community through the reconciling work of Christ. This new identity compels us to live in a communion of brotherly love. This is because when we are secure in God's love, we are free and responsible to radically love one another in transparency, accountability, and mutual edification.
Is it important for believers to strive for this kind of communion with one another? Why or why not? Read Gen. 1:26, 2:18, John 17:20-23 and 1 Peter 2:9-10 for help.
Christian community is both a restorative work of God in the gospel and a response of believers to that work. What does that mean? Look at Heb. 10:19-25. How is God's restorative work in the gospel described? What should believers respond toward that work?
 To foster the kind of community life that the New Testament sets out for us, we fellowship around the Word. Fellowship involves much more than a passing conversation in a church lobby; it is the common life that we share with other believers, because of the life we have in Christ. So, in large groups, small groups and one-to-one, we instruct with the Word, care with the Word, disciple in the Word and proclaim the Word. In order to keep these priorities in front of us, we have designed a simple house diagram. In essence, a healthy community group should be spending time in all of these "rooms" on a regular basis.
3 The DINING ROOM reminds us that we INSTRUCT with the Word. The word is our life, and we must speak it and share it one with another. In a dining room, we have guests over and share food and conversation together. In biblical community, we share literal food together as well as the food of studying, listening to, and speaking the word to one another. Our life together in community should be like a potluck dinner where everyone brings a dish to share. We don't gather to spectate, we are all active participants.

Q Read Eph. 4:15-16. How does the church grow? How should you be contributing to that growth?

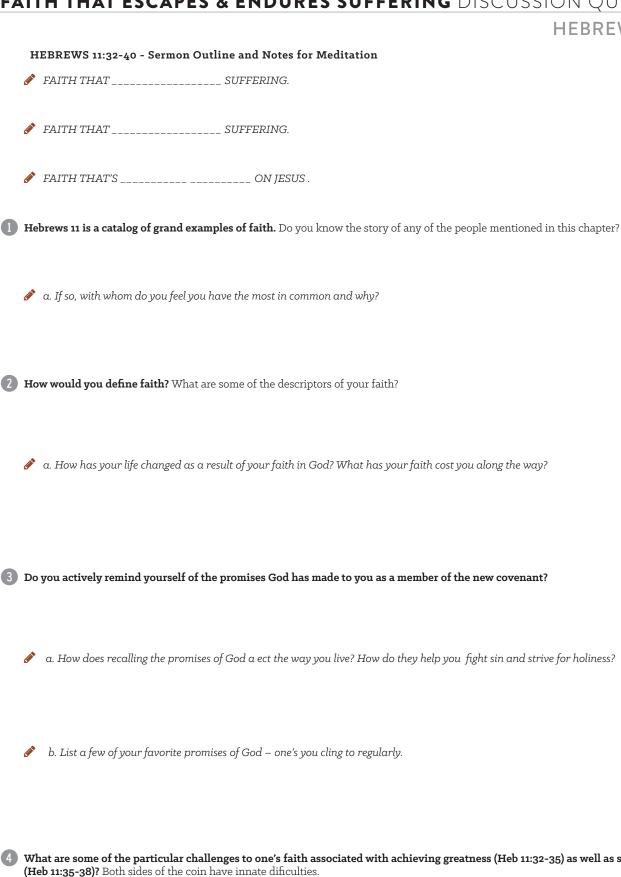
 ${\cal Q}$ Use the imagery in Eph. 4:15-16 to describe your role in the growth of others in community.

How can you practically grow in instructing the Word with your CG this year? Brainstorm several ideas together. Think broader than Wednesday nights.

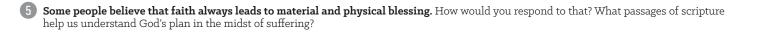
4	The LIVING ROOM reminds us that we CARE with the Word. The gospel causes us both to care for the sup about the needs of our own lives. In our living rooms, we share our lives with others, spending time with working through difficulties, and rejoicing in triumphs. In biblical community, we also share our lives by p other, offering words of encouragement, and even confronting sin when necessary.	th one another, laughing at stories,
	How does Gal. 6:1-2 describe the kind of care that believers should have for each other? Which do you ful difficult?	nd easiest? Which do you find most
	🗱 What are 2-3 things that would grow out of a fresh commitment to this kind of care?	
5	The BASEMENT reminds us that we DISCIPLE with the Word. In our basements, we learn and practice or a sewing room set up to enjoy a hobby or work on a broken appliance. Just like a loving father who invit so believers are called to train others in what to believe and how to live and serve. In Christian community and who they are to help others become more like Jesus.	es his son into a basement workshop,
	What metaphor does Paul use to descibe discipleship in 1 Corinthians 4:14-17? This is not a task reserved practical ways that each person in the group can disciple another person this year.	for experts. Take some time to think of
	 One of the ways we'd like to grow in discipleship this year is by raising up additional leaders within each of roles with your CG leader and pray about whether God would have you serve your group this year: Coleader/Apprentice (helps lead discussions, in training to multiply) Care Leader (mobilizes the group to meet needs, communicates prayer requests and pressing needs to the Connections Leader (mobilizes invites to Sunday guests to be a part of the CG, follows up with geograp intros guests to CG leaders/hosts) Logistics Leader (Fills out attendance, Brings handouts, come early to help with setup) Hospitality Leader (Coordinates snacks/meals, baby/wedding showers, meal trains) Front Porch Leader (Mobilizes group for engagement in relational or geographic evangelistic opportunities. Facilitates proclaiming the gospel in word and deed.) 	he leader and/or group itself)
6	The FRONT PORCH reminds us that we PROCLAIM the Word. The front porch is a place where people are both welcomed into a home and where people can be sent out into the world. In biblical community, we proclaim the gospel through our words and actions both to those we have invited in and to those outside of it. The front porch reminds us that believers display living, Christ-like love one for another in front of those around them by inviting others in to join community and by going out to those who are around them.	
	🗱 Read John 13:35 and 1 John 4:12. What happens when believers genuinely love one another? Why is it important that non-Christians observe Christian community?	
	🤹 Believers both proclaim the gospel as individuals and model the gospel in community. Where do you see both concepts in Matt 5:14-16, 1 Peter 3:15, 2:9-10 and 1 Thess. 1:8?	

FAITH THAT ESCAPES & ENDURES SUFFERING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HEBREWS 11:32-40



What are some of the particular challenges to one's faith associated with achieving greatness (Heb 11:32-35) as well as suffering grievously



How do those who suffered for their faith encourage you to endure? How should God's faithfulness affect how we understand our circumstances?

What does it mean to have a future-looking faith? How did all the examples of Hebrews 11 demonstrate a future-oriented faith? In what ways might new covenant believers do so?

8 Why is it wrong to judge the quality of one's faith by the visible results in this life?

a. How can we know if we have God's commendation if it's not linked to tangible evidence immediately available?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Hebrews 11 lists people who su ered and died in faith. What are some possible reasons God doesn't always immediately or miraculously deliver people who trust him?