

Growing Together as Disciples Acts 2:42-47

24 May 2020 -- Pastor Stan Tyson -- Alliance International Church, Hong Kong

1. The mandate in Matthew 28:19-20 is a singular instruction to _____ .
2. The example of the early church. Acts 2:42-47, Acts 5:42, Romans 16:5.
3. AIC Vision for Community Groups -- *Community Groups purposefully apply biblical truth, build Christ like relationships, and challenge participants to take next steps in their walk with Christ.*
 - a. Community Groups... Acts 5:42
 - b. ...Purposefully... 1 Timothy 4:15
 - c. ...**A**_____ biblical truth... James 1:22
 - d. ...**B**_____ Christ-like relationships... Thessalonians 2:8
 - e. ...**C**_____ participants to take next steps in their walk with Christ. Hebrews 10:24
4. Why should we become involved?
 - a. **B**_____
 - b. Practical
 - c. **M**_____
 - d. Adaptable
5. What are our next steps?
6. A few final words

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. Consider the illustrations of a buffet, gourmet meal or fast food. Which best describes your pattern of involvement in church?
2. Make a list of how you are currently incorporating each of the four Gs in your life.
 - a. Is there a G where you are involved to a great extent?
 - b. Is there a G where you are involved to a lesser extent?
 - c. Are there steps you can take to balance your involvement in all four Gs?
3. As a group, talk about how you include the ABCs in your meeting time. What improvements could you make?
4. What is your next step for growing as a disciple of Jesus?



COMMUNITY GROUPS @ AIC

Community Groups purposefully apply biblical truth, build Christ-like relationships, and challenge participants to take next steps in their walk with Christ.

APPLY—BUILD—CHALLENGE

Community Groups... *Day after day, in the temple*

courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Acts 5:42

Community Groups are intentional groups of people meeting on a regular basis for the purpose of the “ABC’s”. These groups have a designated leader who serves as a shepherd-facilitator, guiding the group and connecting it with the larger church. Community Groups are the most frequent “next step” for people after attendance at the main worship service. They are a place of welcoming, connection, encouragement, spiritual growth, prayer and challenge. Group size is typically between 8 to 12 people. Most groups of this size at AIC will fall under the Community Group umbrella, though their make-up and style may differ. Groups could consist of various adults who commit to meeting together, and include, women’s groups, young adult groups, men’s groups, Filipino groups, etc.

...Purposefully... *Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.*

1 Timothy 4:15

Community Groups are an intentional commitment by the participants to work toward fulfilling the stated purpose. All groups will highlight the “ABC’s”. They can augment this general purpose to better suit their member’s needs. The leader will help the group stay focused on the purpose, facilitate meeting the needs of their group, and be a connection with the larger church.

...Apply biblical truth... *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22*

One of the core functions of the Community Groups is to help members apply biblical truth to their individual life situations. Frequently the Bible content for discussion will originate from the Sunday worship service. Most sermons will have an outline and questions to facilitate discussion. From time to time there will be a church-wide emphasis on a sermon series, and all groups will be asked to postpone any other material and discuss the designated series. Groups are given some latitude to select their own material to address particular group needs when there is not a church-wide emphasis. The Discipleship Pastor should be kept informed of materials and topics prior to their use.

...Build Christ-like relationships... *we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. 1 Thessalonians 2:8*

The best place to grow as a believer is in the context of Christ-like relationships. The people of AIC are challenged to step from the large group, the Sunday worship setting, into a Community Group to experience these relationships. Sharing, prayer and care functions will take place here. When emergencies and disruptions in life happen, the Community Group can be the first place to go for support.

...Challenge participants to take next steps in their walk with Christ. *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds Hebrews 10:24*

Each Christian is intended to grow in their walk with Jesus. Believers should be constantly taking new steps with their Master. CG’s are welcoming places to take the step from the worship service to smaller group. Community Groups challenge and support people as they step out to use their spiritual gifts, natural talents and learned skills to serve the Lord at AIC, Hong Kong and the world.



Alliance International Church, Hong Kong
AIC.org.hk
stan@AIC.org.hk