



Essentials of Great Community by Keith Stewart

"You can't teach what you don't know, and you can't lead where you won't go."

Commitment. Great community groups don't just happen. They are the result of the commitment and involvement of its members. God's relationship to us is defined by covenant – I will never leave you or forsake you. We want our leaders to be committed to prioritizing the group. Promise making + promise keeping = trust. We are formed, deformed, and transformed in relationship.

Resolve Conflict. There is no genuine community without first going through the tunnel of chaos. Everything else is pseudo-community. We want groups to be committed to keeping one's feet under the same table until things are resolved.

- Authentic: We are speaking and living our truth.
- Introspective: We are open to the input and correction of others.
- Compassionate: We are aware of our own failings.

Be Present. Being present is the ability to suspend one's needs; to listen with the intent to understand and not with the intent to reply; to be in the moment; to take in everything a person is saying not just verbally; and to observe mannerisms, tone, and body language.

Caring. Group leaders are first responders. They support one another through prayer, contact, and connection. They also maintain confidentiality – what's said in the group stays in the group.

Balanced. We are all thinking, feeling, and acting beings. Spiritual growth happens in all three areas. We each have a preference for one, but we will remain unbalanced if we are not striving to grow in all three areas.

Serving. If we're not serving together, we're not encouraging engagement in ministry consistent with passions, giftings, and needs that are present.

Spiritual formation is love formation. It's not a wimpish, codependent, permissive kind of love, but love as Scripture defines it -- to seek another's highest and best good.

New Prospects. When new individuals sign-up for your group, their contact information will be emailed to you within 24 hours. We ask that you connect within 48 hours. Statistics show the longer people aren't contacted, the more likely they are to opt-out. Please connect back and let us know how the conversation went and if you have a new prospect! Remember, as the group leader, you have the opportunity to begin building community even before the first meeting! Your personal invitation, a phone call/text, or a conversation on a Sunday morning really helps group members develop a good feeling about the community aspects of the small group before they meet any of the other group members.

We're honored to serve you as you serve others. Thank you for following God's call to lead, and please know that you are never alone! If you need any help, feel free to reach out to me. You can also expect to hear from your coach within the next week.