



New Community Group Launch Material - Part 1

Welcome:

As you begin your time, give one another a quick greeting and warm, celebratory welcome to your first-ever community group gathering!

Interviews and Introductions:

Rather than introducing yourselves, break off into pairs and spend 6 minutes interviewing one another. Set a timer for 3 minutes for each person to interview the other. Ask questions like:

- *Where are you from?*
- *What brought you to the Bay Area?*
- *When did faith in Jesus become something important for you?*

After both rounds of interviewing, come back together as a group, sitting next to your interview partner. Then go around the room doing introductions. But rather than introducing yourself, tell the room what you learned about your partner.

Basic Vision:

Reality SF's vision is to be *a community following Jesus, seeking renewal in our city.*

Community groups like this one are intended to be *neighborhood-based communities where we seek to know God and one another while practicing the way of Jesus together.*

This is a grand vision for what this community can become. Inevitably, this group will become what we all help make it become. As we get to know each other and begin meeting regularly, let's all practice a posture of humble and creative contribution. Show up each week and to each conversation prepared to offer the best of yourself in order to draw more out of this group and one another. As we all come together to do this, we'll become a kind of new, countercultural family of Jesus followers.

Hopes and Expectations:

Have a group discussion responding to the following prompt:

What are you most hopeful for or most hesitant about in joining this community group?

Basic Expectations:

Most weeks, we will use material provided by the church staff to guide our time together. The material is written so that everyone in the group can access it and use it as a guide to the time. It is posted at realitysf.com/blog/cgmaterial. Typically, the leaders will either facilitate the time or ask a group member to serve as facilitator. If there is any homework or preparation required, the facilitator will notify you ahead of time.

Because this is a brand-new group, we will go through 6-weeks of foundational material and exercises before jumping into the material that the rest of the church is going through.

Homework:

For homework, please give at least 30 minutes to write an “I Am” Poem. Next week, we will all read our poems aloud together.

“I Am” Poem Exercise:

The following exercise is meant to help us reflect on the different parts of our story that make us who we are today and to give us an intentional and vulnerable space to hear one another’s stories. Fill out the following template in silent reflection. You can be as detailed as you wish to be.

“I Am” Poem

I am from _____

(traditions that remind you of home),

from _____

(brands— clothing, products, labels commonly used growing up).

I am from _____

(three unique aspects of your home environment)

I am from _____

(plants/gardens that grew inside/outside your home),

from _____

(sounds, touch, scents that remind you of home)

I am from _____

(favorite childhood activities, books you remember most, toys you collected),

from _____

(family member’s names/names of people who took care of you).

I am from _____

(names of the places your parents are from),

from _____

(names of the places you've lived in)

I am from _____

(phrases you've grown up listening to, superstitions/oddities your parents/guardians always used)

I am from _____

(food you ate growing up),

from _____

(holidays and traditions you grew up celebrating)

I am from _____

(faith traditions, faith journey, spiritual discoveries),

from _____

(doubts, struggle with faith)

I am from _____

(phrases or words that remind you of a significant struggle you went through),

from _____

(phrases or words that remind you of great joys in life)

I am from _____

(great realizations you've made in life, quotes, mottos you hold dear)

I am from _____

(activities, adjectives, descriptions that you think best describe your identity today)

I am _____

(your name)