

MOVEMENTS

THE ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

[Leader's Notes]

"Movements" is 6-week study series designed to be the starting point for every First Baptist Church Community Group.

The big idea for the series is that FBC Community Groups are about *moving together* through our lives and the world at-large. We need each other in so many ways—especially when one considers the fact that as Christians, we necessarily "move differently" than the rest of the world. Our job is to show the world what God is like, and the best way for us to do that is together, as His body; His church.

This series gets your group engaged in their new community. It is designed to build to a culminating point where your group solidifies a unique "covenant"- a statement of mission, vision, and commitment that your Group will hold to.

Each week we will discuss one "Movement." The series is laid out as follows:

Movement 1: "Backward"

The idea is that as community groups, a primary goal is to "move backward" together discover our roots as God's people in the pages of His story, the Bible. This study prepares people for (and hopefully gets them excited about) the reality that FBC Community groups will be deeply rooted in scripture.

Movement 2: "Forward"

Building on the previous week, the idea is that the reason we root ourselves in the word of God is so that we can learn how to live it. The world is constantly changing; constantly evolving... and yet the Word of God remains our authority for being His people in the midst of it. With the Bible in our heads and in our hearts, we can faithfully "move forward" in a way that reveals who God is to the world around us, no matter how that world changes.

Movement 3: "Inward"

Community groups are about the inward journey. This week is designed to get people used to the idea that sharing & being vulnerable with one another are a necessary and vital part of true Christian Community. After all, we believe our salvation is *holistic*. This means that God is working on restoring every part of us- mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. We also believe that God doesn't want us to do that work alone.

Movement 4: "Outward"

This week we get into God's mission, and how we are a part of it. As Christians, it is our belief that in Jesus, God became King. God's ongoing work is therefore the restoration of all people and all things to Himself; a work which was begun the instant Jesus ascended to the throne in Acts 1. We are people of Acts 2 and beyond- gathered together, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and set loose to demonstrate and announce His Kingdom to the world. The only question that remains: How will our community group participate in that mission?

Movement 5: "Upward"

God's community is a worshipping community. A significant part of gathering together as His people is to bring praise and glory to Him. We will look at why we worship, and how we worship... and hopefully we will begin to work out what it looks like for our group to practice worship together.

Movement 6: "Together"

True Christian Community believes that we were created to live deeply with one another: To carry each other's burdens, to share our possessions, to pray for and confess our sins to each other, to suffer and celebrate together. So this is what we will do as community groups. We do this because we know that the Way of Jesus cannot be lived alone. ***As a part of this final lesson, your community group will be asked to form a "group covenant," in order to decide and commit to how you will move together.

How the Material Works

Each week there is a discussion guide with three sections:

The first section, "Moving deeper," could be considered "the basics." Don't let that description fool you, though... many groups will find that their group generates discussion that is more than sufficient to take the entire hour or two you have together.

The second section, "Deeper Still," is designed to get people thinking. The questions in this part may be more theological, or they may provoke thought that is outside the box. Don't be surprised if there is disagreement here, and don't let it discourage you. Know that a bit of healthy controversy or conflict can be *extremely* beneficial in bringing people to a point of deeper faith and understanding.

The final section, "Moving Beyond" contains some simple ideas and activities for people to do on their own throughout the week. **Important note:** Some of these activities may in fact be fun or beneficial to do as a group as well. For instance, in week 1, there is a series of scriptures to look up. This could be a great activity for a group to do ahead of the video, just to get themselves thinking. Other activities will be service oriented, or oriented toward some basic spiritual disciplines like prayer or fasting.