

**GOD'S VISION FOR COMMUNITY**

Date: 04/11

(1 HOUR)

- OBJECTIVES:**
1. Participants will be able to understand the different elements in a definition of community.
  2. Participants will be able to understand the biblical basis of community.

**OVERVIEW FOR TRAINERS:** This lesson is to give the participants the understanding that a community is not just people living together in the same geographic area. They must hold many things in common to be a true community. In addition, as CHE practitioners, we need to concentrate on small communities.

METHOD	TIME	KNOWLEDGE
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**Exercise:**  
 Break into small groups of approximately 6 people each. Make one person from each group an "outsider." Tell each group they are a village community and the outsider wants to enter their community. They are to react as they think people in a rural village might react.

10"

After 5 minutes, come back together. Ask each group if they let the outsider into their community. Why or why not? Ask the outsider how they felt.

**----SHO questions----**

S = What do you See?  
 H = What is Happening?

I. Divide the group into small groups and have them list the factors which make up a community. Report back. Give or ask for one or two examples of factors before sending them into their small groups.

25"

A. A recommended list is included. Review the entire list they give and emphasize "sense of belonging" as one of the most important factors.

I. Small Group Activity:

- A. Aspects of a community:
1. Live in the same geographical area.
  2. Depend on each other.
  3. Do things together.
  4. Share similar background and experiences.
  5. Share common problems and needs as well as common fears and concerns.
  6. Influence each other.
  7. There is a sense of belonging, identity, and bond. They have the "We feeling." This point ties everything else together.
  8. Recognize the same

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<p>B. Summary: What makes them one?</p> <p>C. Show two words in the word community.</p> <p>D. What is thinking small?</p> <p>E. Is a city a community? Why or why not?</p>		<p>leadership.</p> <p>10. Share common customs, culture, habits, ceremonies, beliefs, taboos, and discipline.</p> <p>11. Communicate with each other.</p> <p>12. Identify themselves and each other as part of the same community.</p> <p>13. Speak the same language.</p> <p>14. Within the community, there may be sub-groups such as: clan, family, age, sex, religion, occupation, education, etc.</p> <p>15. Common economic resources.</p> <p>16. Know each other.</p> <p>B. Summary: the more things they have in common, the stronger the sense of community.</p> <p>C. <u>Community</u> = Common + Unity</p> <p>D. Thinking small: Our target for CHE should be small areas or units of people who know and influence each other. The ideal population for a CHE community is between 500-1000. (1 CHE for 10-20 homes.)</p> <p>E. Urban comparison:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No one sees themselves as a permanent resident of that area.</li> <li>2. They hold very few things in common as they are from many places in the country.</li> <li>3. They don't know each other.</li> <li>4. They have no sense of community.</li> <li>5. There may be sub-communities within the city but even that is questionable.</li> </ol>
<p>II. As a way of summary, make a working definition from the factors listed by the group. This will be referenced during the rest of the week.</p>	5"	<p>II. <u>Working definition of community:</u> A group of people who know each other, live in geographic proximity, share things in common, and have a sense of belonging.</p>
<p>III. God's Vision for Community</p> <p>A. Break into 5 groups giving each group two Bible verses. They will use those verses to answer the question: "What is God's Vision for Community?" Give each group a sheet of newsprint to record their answers and present to the large group.</p>	20"	<p>III. <u>God's Vision for Community</u></p> <p>A. God's Vision for Community</p>

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METHOD	TIME	KNOWLEDGE
1. Ephesians 4:29-5:6 Deuteronomy 7:12-15		1. Ephesians 4:29-5:6 – People living together with kindness, compassion and forgiveness. Their conversation is uplifting, their lifestyles holy and righteous, and their hearts thankful. Deuteronomy 7:12-15: People living in obedience to God and recipients of His blessing – children, crops, and freedom from disease.
2. Colossians 3:5-17 Isaiah 65:17-25		2. Colossians 3:5-17: People living holy lives characterized by purity, integrity, honesty, compassion, gentleness, humility, patience and forgiveness. No discrimination. Perfect unity. Hearts filled with songs and gratitude. Isaiah 65:17-25: Joy and delight, no infant mortality or premature death, houses and vineyards, children with a future and a hope, communion with God, peace.
3. Hebrews 13:1-5 Isaiah 32:15-20		3. Hebrews 13:1-5 – People loving each other as brothers. Strangers entertained. Marriage bed kept pure. Lives free from the love of money. Contentment. Isaiah 32:15-20: Abundance, justice, righteousness, peace, security, rest.
4. Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 82:2-4 Psalm 133:1-3		4. Acts 2:42 – Christ's followers ate, studied, prayed, and fellowshiped together. Psalm 82:2-4 – Provide for the weak and maintain the rights of the afflicted. Psalm 133:1-3 – People living together in unity
5. Acts 4:32-35; Romans 13:1-9		5. Acts 4:32-35 – They provided for the needs of each other. Romans 13:1-9 – Everyone submits to the governing authorities and the authorities uphold what is right. People obey the commandments and love their neighbor.
B. What makes a community Christian? Ask as a large group.		B. When members of a community are seeking to live under God's control and to live biblically, it is called a Christian community.
C. In conclusion, emphasize that as more and more people in the community accept Christ, it will become more like a Christian community. Relationships will be healed and people will begin to reach out in love.		

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<b><u>ATTITUDE:</u></b>		Participants will understand that a community is much more than just people living together.
<b><u>SKILL:</u></b>		Participants are able to explain community to one another and live as part of it.
<b><u>EVALUATION:</u></b>		When they start a project, participants include the majority of the community, including those who are different from the average community member. They view the ideal CHE community as small in size (500-1000).
<b><u>MATERIALS:</u></b>		-Newsprint -Marking pens -Masking tape -Bibles

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