



When we talk about **“community”** or **“being in community”** or **“getting involved with community”** at Christian Fellowship Church, we recognize that the people that make up our diverse congregation have a wide variety of past experiences and definitions associated with those words.

For some, **“getting involved in community”** in a church environment means signing up for a weekly Bible study or a Wednesday night class. Some see **“being in community”** in a lively church lobby on a Sunday morning, participating in the dozens of brief interactions that take place within that body of believers. Still others would consider any place where **“two or more are gathered”** to be community.

And when we talk about **“community,”** all of those examples represent a place where community might be experienced. But they’re not what community **IS**.

At CFC, **“community”** isn’t a program, a class, a group, an event, a gathering, or a worship service.

**“Being in community”** is being an active participant in transformational relationships.

**To put it simply, community is where your story is known, shown, and grown in the context of Biblical love.**<sup>1</sup>



**Your story is “known”** in community as you find others with whom you choose to share more and more of the details of your story and whose stories you know in a progressively deeper and more personal way. They come to know the painful and the amazing parts of your story, and you come to know theirs. They are allowed into the areas where you struggle to believe, hope, grow, and heal, and they’re right beside you as you celebrate the joys and victories together. And you do the same for them.<sup>2</sup>



**Your story is “shown”** in community as you risk bringing your gifting, your time, your resources, and your authentic self to meet the needs of the others. At times it may require grand gestures, but it will also involve steady, ongoing, intentional engagement in the day-to-day. Just as important, your story is **“shown”** in community when you not only help to care for the needs of others but also allow your needs to be known and met.<sup>3</sup>



**Your story is “grown”** in community as you regularly and authentically engage in the **“knowing”** and **“showing”** over time. As you continue to invite Jesus further into your own story and share the fruit and the challenges of His work in your life, it has a powerful effect on the others. And as you listen to what the God of the Universe is doing in the lives of these people you have come to know, your own story with Him continues to grow richer and deeper as well.<sup>4</sup>

**Community** isn’t a program, a group, an event, or a gathering. But it’s often in those places that we find like-hearted people with whom we begin to experience the transformational effects of community. We encourage participation in those kinds of activities so that each of us can find those people with whom we can continue to grow outside of Sunday services.

At CFC, we believe deeply in the **power of community**. We believe it’s one of God’s deep desires for His people and His church. And we believe that experiencing transformational relationships will not only change our own lives, but also the life of this church and this community for generations to come.

1 *Matthew 22:37-40, John 15:12-13*

2 *Acts 2:42-43, Romans 12 :9, Galatians 6:2, James 5:16, Proverbs 17:17, Proverbs 27 :17*

3 *Philippians 2:1-4, Acts 2:44-47, Romans 12:5, 1 Peter 4:8-11*

4 *John 17:22-23, 2 Peter 1:5-8, Ephesians 4:11-16*