



COMMUNITIES ON MISSION OVERVIEW

Communities on Mission (CoMs) are teams on a spiritual journey together, seeking to make Heaven on Earth visible in a specific place in their neighborhood or city.

THE COMMUNITY ON MISSION HAS TWO GOALS

1. SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN COMMUNITY
2. TO MAKE HEAVEN ON EARTH VISIBLE IN THEIR CITY

These two goals are connected and happen simultaneously. As a community grows spiritually, that growth and maturity translate into visible mission and service in the world. This is easily compared with Christ's relationship with the Father, which was the very motivation that led him to go into the world. Community motivates us into action for our mission. Mission also flows back into the formation of the community. The spirituality of the Community on Mission will be strengthened through service together, as well as through new people who become followers of Christ and join the community.

SIMPLY PUT, THE PROCESS WORKS LIKE THIS:

Spiritual Community -> Mission -> Deeper and Larger Spiritual Community

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Not only does spiritual growth happen in community, but leadership happens in community as well. Community on Mission leadership is split into two roles that partner together, each focusing on one community goal: Community-Leader and Mission-Leader.

The Community-Leader cultivates the spiritual culture and environment of a Community on Mission, helping shape and foster space for spiritual formation that leads to missional living. The Mission-Leader helps capture this spiritual culture and direct it out, in the love of Christ, for the city.

NOTE FOR LEADERS: In your role as a leader in a Community on Mission, you are not alone. There is someone by your side who can support you in your own discipleship and leadership. These leaders help one another and are each other's greatest support. Both aspects are theologically and practically of equal importance. You are truly a team!

WHO COMMUNITY ON MISSION LEADERS ARE

DISCIPLESHIP

Community on Mission leaders are living out their discipleship to Jesus through concrete spiritual practices and character-forming habits that are naturally shared with the CoM. As leaders, they will naturally be examples for the community members as they too are practicing discipleship to Jesus.

OUR THREE DISCIPLESHIP GOALS (quoted from the work of Dallas Willard and Bridgetown Church):

1. We must learn to BE WITH JESUS
2. Through being with Jesus, we begin to BECOME LIKE JESUS
3. As we become like him, we then are able to DO WHAT JESUS DID

A HEALTHY PASTOR-LEADER RELATIONSHIP

Every CoM has an assigned Pastor who is the spiritual leader of Community on Mission leaders. Even when there is a difference of opinion, we ask for a consistent loyalty to the pastor who is in oversight over the CoM.

The spiritual growth of the Community on Mission is actively pursued. Bible studies from YouVersion or provided by your local church can be used for the Community Gatherings of the CoM. This content, which each of our CoM's will work through together, helps the different CoM's remain connected through a single shared vision.

VISION FOR GROWTH

Along with the spiritual growth of the community as a whole, we long for each CoM to grow in their number of members and the size of their impact. There should be an ongoing and growing impact in their Mission Location (the specific place where the CoM is active in mission).

WHO COMMUNITY ON MISSION LEADERS ARE

As a leader, it is your responsibility to continually encourage the Community on Mission to consider how to multiply. This should be a consistent hope and prayer that the leader brings to the CoM's attention. The CoM needs to keep its eyes open for new people who can join the Community on Mission and further the work.

EXAMPLE: Your team has been serving at a local food bank for the last 6 months. After growing to 15 people in the CoM, however, the right next step would be to look for another food bank to serve and to split into two communities.

DESCRIBING THE ROLES: THE COMMUNITY-LEADER

The Community-Leader has three main goals:

1. Create Meeting Spaces
2. Equip Spiritually
3. Journey in Community

NOTE TO LEADERS: Your main responsibility is the organization of the Community Gathering and holding one-on-one meetings with each team member.

CREATE MEETING SPACES

Spiritual formation begins and ends in community, so the first goal of the Community-Leader will be to organize times when the group can consistently come together. This Community Gathering will help each group member get to know one another and share life together. It is important that this is not simply a good time, but a space where deep relationships are being formed. This is crucial for spiritual growth. The Community-Leader makes sure no one is lonely!

A key aspect of Christian community is Koinonia, or radical sharing. The Community-Leader creates a safe space for members to support each other, form strong bonds, and reduce loneliness. This goal can be expressed through praying for one another, confession, sharing of testimony, sharing of resources, eating, and celebrating. Discipleship happens not merely in the structure of meeting, but in the group culture. The Community-Leader should not consider their role as marking items off a to-do list, but should instead focus on the culture of the group.

EQUIP SPIRITUALLY

C.S Lewis once said, “The Church exists for nothing else but to draw [humans] into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became [human] for no

other purpose. It is even doubtful, you know, whether the whole universe was created for any other purpose.” The Community-Leader helps people in their discipleship journey not merely as means for mission, but as the goal of the CoM itself.

Discipleship is something that is both “caught” and “taught.” The Community-Leader must first be someone committed to their own discipleship in such a way where the group can look at them and see someone becoming more and more like Christ. This means they have a set of personal practices that they can share with the group for how they follow Jesus. This also means they must be a moral example. The Community-Leader will help equip people on their journey to follow Jesus through concrete practices.

The Community Gathering creates a space for prayer and conversation around specific topics that will help the community grow and empower them to go out on mission. The Community-Leader should both listen to the group conversation and ask good questions that stir thought and discussion, then use wisdom and their knowledge of scripture and Jesus to teach others. It is critical that Community-Leaders have a working knowledge of scripture as a story that applies to our life to lead others in this area. They should be able to help people apply the narrative of scripture to their own life.

Part of the CoM dynamic will be regular one-on-one meetings. The frequency of these meetings is up to the Community-Leader and group members. The purpose of these meetings is to:

- Hear how the community member is doing
- Know their story
- Ask about their spiritual life
- Give good spiritual advice
- Ask for deeper commitment
- Invest in them

- Strong interpersonal skills
- Has a pastoral heart

Notes for Leaders: These are the qualities that we hope to see in a Community-Leader, but we know there is no perfect Community-Leader. We are all in an ongoing process of discipleship to Jesus. We expect you to bear responsibility for your community and actively pursue personal growth to help you fulfill that responsibility.

DESCRIBING THE ROLES: THE MISSION-LEADER

The Mission-Leader has two main goals:

1. Choose a Mission Location
2. Seek to make Heaven on Earth visible

The main responsibility is to lead the work at the Mission Location and to be the main point of contact with the people there.

CHOOSE A MISSION LOCATION

Each Community on Mission chooses a specific Mission Location to become “Good News” for the people there through faithful presence and service. In doing so, the CoM connects their spiritual community and growth with their service, working to see how Heaven on Earth can be made visible and fulfilling the call to be “Salt” and “Light” in our world. The Church is not merely called to create a permanent place where others can find us, but is called to go out and be servants of their neighbor. When we look at the biblical narrative, we see that God does not merely want to bless his people, but also make them into blessings for the world (Genesis 12:2).

The role of the Mission-Leader is to share this vision with the CoM and lead them in participating in God’s project of renewal for all creation. The Mission-Leader is responsible for maintaining and sustaining the vision that the community has for the Mission Location, as well as the ongoing development of this vision. This is how the Mission-Leader works with the Community-Leader to determine how the spiritual growth of the community can bear fruit in the city.

While the Mission-Leader plans and facilitates the CoM’s presence in their Mission Location, they also are responsible for developing relationships with the people they serve. The Mission-Leader is the main point of contact for the community being served and should create lasting relationships with them. At the Community Gathering, the Mission-Leader leads reflections on the trips and work being done on mission and prayer for the place of service.

JOURNEY IN COMMUNITY

Each person in the CoM should have the space, leadership, and vision to grow. While journeying with members in their personal growth and life is a key part of living in community, the end goal of the CoM is to ensure the community as a whole has the spiritual energy to seek Heaven on Earth in a place in their Mission Location. Community-Leaders should have a strong vision for cultivating and connecting their community in both their journey together and their spiritual growth to instill a sense of belonging and protect against burn out. The Community-Leader will also help people, through their knowledge of them, understand how their strengths can best be used on the mission. A strong partnership with the Mission-Leader is critical to best help community members engage in the mission.

The Community-Leader will seek to be the best example of being a teammate in the mission or project of the CoM, engaging at Missional Outreaches and advocating for them. They will seek to build relationships with everyone they encounter, and will use the mission as a space for them to serve the community as an example of Christ.

QUALITIES OF A COMMUNITY-LEADER

- Lives life for God
- Desires to serve
- Has a collaborative attitude
- Strong leadership skills
- Supports the Mission-Leader 100%
- Possesses vision for community
- Shares life with others
- Has an awareness of the need of the CoM
- Leads through a moral example
- Enjoys meeting with others one-on-one
- Has a trust in and growing understanding of scriptures
- Prioritizes building meaningful relationships

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SEEK TO MAKE HEAVEN ON EARTH VISIBLE

The Mission-Leader will work with the CoM to develop the vision, mission, and strategy of the Mission Location. The Mission-Leader is to bring the whole CoM into the planning process and make sure it is being shaped by the whole team, and not merely something that the Mission-Leader has chosen.

As the Community-Leader guides the CoM's spiritual growth, the Mission-Leader develops and grows the project. Heaven on Earth begins small, but expands and develops from that small point (Matthew 13:31-32).

It is important to note that the Mission-Leader is not merely responsible for the organization of the mission, but prioritizes relationships with people at the location and seeks to develop a spiritual community there.

The Mission-Leader is an example of being in relationship with the people they are serving. Through this example, the Mission-Leader encourages their teammates to build relationships as well.

QUALITIES OF A MISSION-LEADER

- Builds relationships with a variety of people
- Understands theology of mission and service
- Lives out a visible discipleship to Jesus
- Leads through moral example
- Proficient in networking
- Can delegate tasks well
- Leads events and (Missional) Outreaches to the Mission Location well
- Good at recruiting new people
- Desires to grow the Mission
- Supports the Community-Leader 100%
- Encourages others to take responsibility
- Collaborative Attitude

Note for Leaders: These are the qualities that we hope to see in a Mission-Leader, but we know there is no perfect Mission-Leader. We are all in an ongoing process of discipleship to Jesus. From the Mission-Leader, we expect you to bear the responsibility for your Mission Location and actively pursue personal growth to fulfill that responsibility.

Community on **Mission** 

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