

REDISCOVERING CHURCH:
A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO BUILDING
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES
WORKBOOK

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GROUP ACTIVITIES

To help bring the principles of *Rediscovering Church: A Practical Guide to Building Christian Communities* into real-life application, this section provides a series of interactive activities that can be undertaken by groups. These activities are designed to encourage deep discussions, foster authentic connections, and inspire action in faith communities. Each activity aligns with key themes from the book and can be used in small groups, leadership teams, or church-wide gatherings.

1. Community Reflection & Discussion

Acts 2 Challenge

- Read Acts 2:42-47 together.
- In small groups, compare your current church community with the early church described in Acts.
- Discuss:
 - What similarities and differences do you see?
 - What practical steps could you take to align more closely with this model?
 - What barriers prevent your community from living out these principles?

Leadership Matters

- Identify the five leadership qualities (pioneering, visionary, connecting, caring, mentoring) from Ephesians 4:11.
- As a group, discuss:
 - Which qualities are strongest in your community?
 - Who in your group embodies each quality?
 - How can you encourage one another to grow in leadership?

2. Story Sharing & Testimonies

Faith Journey Map

- Each person sketches a timeline of key moments in their faith journey.
- Highlight significant turning points, challenges, and spiritual growth moments.
- In small groups, share one of these moments and how it shaped your faith.
- Reflect on how sharing personal stories strengthens community bonds.

Testimony Swap

- Pair up with someone and share a personal faith story.

- After listening, each person will share their partner's story with the larger group.
- This reinforces the value of testimony in encouraging and strengthening faith.

3. Love in Action Challenges

Random Acts of Kindness

- Brainstorm as a group ways to show love in the community.
- Each person selects one act of kindness to complete within a week.
- Regroup to share experiences and reflect on how these actions impacted others.

Serving Together

- Organize a small group outreach project, such as:
 - Hosting a community meal
 - Conducting a prayer walk
 - Volunteering at a local shelter
 - Cleaning up a public space
- Reflect on how serving together strengthens relationships and faith.

4. Leadership & Accountability Exercises

Vision Casting

- Imagine your ideal Christian community in five years.
- Discuss:
 - What does it look like?
 - How do members interact and support each other?
 - What ministries or initiatives exist?
- Identify practical steps to start moving toward this vision today.

Accountability Circles

- Form small accountability groups.
- Each member sets one personal faith goal and one community-building goal.
- Meet weekly or bi-weekly to check in, pray, and support each other.

5. Church Transformation Simulation

Case Study Challenge

- Present a fictional struggling church scenario.
- In small groups, create a revitalization plan based on principles from the book.

- Discuss and compare strategies, then vote on the most practical approach.

Community Role Play

- Assign roles and act out different challenging church scenarios, such as:
 - A leadership conflict
 - A newcomer being ignored
 - A church split
- After each scenario, discuss:
 - What biblical principles apply to resolving the situation?
 - How can love, accountability, and strategic leadership be used to foster healing and growth?

Final Reflection & Call to Action

Building a strong Christian community is an ongoing journey. These activities are designed to spark discussions, deepen relationships, and put faith into action. As you engage with these exercises, remember that transformation happens when we commit to learning, growing, and serving together.

Next Steps

- Reflect on what has challenged or inspired you throughout this book.
- Identify one specific action step you will take in your personal faith journey or church community.
- Consider forming an accountability group to encourage one another in applying these principles.

A Community Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for calling us into community. As we seek to build authentic Christian relationships here in [name your place], give us wisdom, courage, and love. Help us to listen, to serve, and to grow together in faith. May [name your place], reflect Your love and grace, drawing others to You. We entrust our plans and actions to You, knowing that You are the true builder of Your church.

Amen.



VISION & GOALS

Building authentic Christian communities is an ongoing journey that benefits from thoughtful reflection and intentional planning. The following pages provide structured space for you to document your community-building journey, track progress, and plan next steps. These note-taking templates align with the principles discussed throughout this book and can help you move from vision to reality in practical ways.

Whether you're just starting out or looking to strengthen an existing community, use these pages to capture insights, track developments, and maintain focus on what matters most. Feel free to adapt these templates to better suit your specific context and needs.

A free downloadable version of just this note-taking section is available by contacting the author. You might find it helpful to print multiple copies for ongoing use or to share with your leadership team.

Let's begin documenting your community-building journey...

Vision & Goals

Our Community Vision:

Key Goals for Next 3 Months:

1.

2.

3.

Leadership Development

Current Leadership Strengths:

- Pioneering:

- Visionary:

- Connecting:

- Caring:

- Mentoring:

Areas for Growth:

Community Assessment

Current Strengths:

- Teaching:

- Fellowship:

- Breaking Bread:

- Prayer:

- Worship:

Growth Opportunities:

Action Steps

Next Steps for Our Community:

1. This Week:

2. This Month:

3. This Quarter:

Prayer Journal

Prayer Requests for Our Community:

Answered Prayers:

Connection Map

Key Relationships to Develop:

- Church Leaders:

- Business Leaders:

- Civic Leaders:

- Community Leaders:

Resource Inventory

Available Resources:

- People:

- Places:

- Skills:

- Other:

Needed Resources:

Progress Tracking

Date: _____

What's Working Well:

What Needs Adjustment:

Next Review Date: _____

Personal Reflections



COMMUNITY RESEARCH

Introduction

This section provides a structured approach to researching and analysing your local community, helping you identify both challenges and opportunities for transformative ministry.

Before we can effectively build Christian communities that reflect the vibrancy and authenticity of Acts 2, we must first understand the unique landscape of our own place.

Remember, Jesus always started with what was in front of Him. He understood the customs, needs, and culture of those He served. Similarly, our effectiveness in building Christian community depends on how well we understand and engage with our specific context.

Here are 20 pieces of information to research in your local community:

1. The existing leadership structure and key leaders across the four strategic quarters (Commercial, Civic, Community, and Church)
2. Current prayer gatherings and initiatives that might serve as foundations for unity
3. Places where people naturally gather in the community (third spaces)

4. Existing collaborative efforts between churches or Christian organizations
5. The specific needs of the community that aren't being addressed
6. Cultural and demographic makeup of the area to ensure inclusive community building
7. Historical context of church unity (or division) in the area
8. Available meeting spaces (both large venues and homes suitable for smaller gatherings)
9. Local talents and skills that could be leveraged for ministry and community service
10. Existing fellowship opportunities and how they might be strengthened or expanded
11. Current teaching and discipleship models being used effectively in the area
12. The perception of the church from those outside the Christian community
13. Economic challenges and opportunities within the community
14. Physical assets or properties that could potentially be used for ministry
15. Local communication channels that could help share the vision of unity

16. Potential strategic leaders who exhibit the five leadership qualities (pioneering, visionary, connecting, caring, mentoring)
17. Existing social enterprises or ministry initiatives addressing community needs
18. Worship expressions and practices that might engage different segments of the community
19. Opportunities for breaking bread together (shared meals, communion practices, etc.)
20. Key community events that might provide opportunities for Christian witness and service

The Community Assessment Process

The following research activities are designed to be completed over a period of 4-6 weeks.

They can be undertaken by an individual but ideally should involve a small team of 3-5 people who bring diverse perspectives and connections.

Activity 1: Mapping the Four Quarters

Purpose: To identify the key leaders and influencers across all sectors of your community.

Instructions:

1. Draw a large circle and divide it into four quarters labelled: Commercial, Civic, Community, and Church.
2. In each quarter, list the following:
 - Key organizations and institutions
 - Known leaders and influencers
 - Existing relationships you or your team have
 - Potential points of connection

Reflection Questions:

- Where do you see the strongest leadership?
- Which quarter has the least connection with the others?
- Where might you have the most natural points of entry?

- Who might serve as "bridge builders" between quarters?

Activity 2: Prayer Landscape Assessment

Purpose: To understand the existing prayer culture and identify opportunities for unity through prayer.

Instructions:

1. Research and list all existing prayer initiatives in your community:
 - Regular prayer meetings
 - Prayer networks
 - Special prayer events
 - Prayer ministries
2. For each initiative, note:
 - Who leads it

- Who attends
- Focus of the prayers (local concerns, global issues, specific needs)
- Frequency and location

Reflection Questions:

- Where do you see evidence of united prayer across church boundaries?
- What gaps exist in the prayer coverage of your community?
- How might existing prayer initiatives be connected or strengthened?
- What steps might you take to establish or join a prayer initiative for community transformation?

Activity 3: Community Needs Assessment

Purpose: To identify the specific needs that your Christian community might address.

Instructions:

1. Conduct the following research:
 - Review local news sources for recurring community concerns
 - Meet with social service providers and community organizations
 - Interview local government representatives
 - Speak with school administrators
 - Talk with business owners
2. Create a chart documenting:
 - The need identified
 - Who is currently addressing it
 - Gaps in service
 - Potential resources within the Christian community
 - Kingdom opportunities

Reflection Questions:

- What needs align with the gifts and resources in your Christian community?
- Where might collaboration across churches address a need more effectively?
- What unaddressed needs might become priorities for new initiatives?
- How can meeting these needs demonstrate the love of Christ in tangible ways?

Activity 4: Breaking Bread Opportunities

Purpose: To identify natural gathering points for sharing meals and building relationships.

Instructions:

1. Map the "third spaces" in your community:

- Cafés and restaurants
 - Community centre's
 - Parks and public spaces
 - Libraries
 - Arts venues
2. Identify places where people already naturally gather and note:
- Demographics that frequent each space
 - Atmosphere and accessibility
 - Potential for hosting intentional gatherings
 - Existing connections to Christian community

Reflection Questions:

- Where do diverse groups already mix in your community?
- What spaces might be most conducive to authentic relationship building?
- How might shared meals become part of your community building strategy?
- What barriers might prevent people from participating in breaking bread together?

Activity 5: Resource Inventory

Purpose: To identify the assets and resources available for building Christian community.

Instructions:

- 1. Create an inventory of the following:
 - Physical spaces (church buildings, homes, community centers)
 - Skills and talents (professional expertise, practical abilities, creative gifts)
 - Financial resources (potential funding sources, shared assets, giving capacity)
 - Technology and communication tools
 - Existing programs and ministries
- 2. For each resource, note:
 - Current utilization

- Potential for broader community impact
- Barriers to access or use
- Opportunities for sharing across organizations

Reflection Questions:

- What underutilized resources exist in your Christian community?
- How might resources be shared more effectively across churches?
- What new resources might need to be developed?
- How does your resource inventory align with identified community needs?

Activity 6: Leadership Identification

Purpose: To identify potential strategic leaders who exhibit the five leadership qualities.

Instructions:

1. Create a matrix with the five leadership qualities across the top:
 - Pioneering (Apostolic)
 - Visionary (Prophetic)
 - Connecting (Evangelistic)
 - Caring (Pastoral)
 - Mentoring (Teaching)
2. Begin listing individuals who demonstrate these qualities, noting:
 - Their primary sphere of influence (Commercial, Civic, Community, Church)
 - Their specific strengths
 - Your existing relationship with them
 - Potential influence they could have in building Christian community

Reflection Questions:

- Where do you see leadership gaps in your community?

- Which leaders might benefit from intentional connection with others?
- How might you begin engaging these leaders in conversations about community transformation?
- What support or development might these leaders need?

Activity 7: Unity Assessment

Purpose: To understand the current state of Christian unity in your community.

Instructions:

1. Research the following aspects of local church relationships:
 - History of collaboration or division
 - Existing partnerships or networks

- Areas of theological or practical tension
 - Previous unity initiatives (successful and unsuccessful)
2. Create a timeline of significant unity moments or challenges in your community.
 3. Interview long-standing church leaders about their experiences with unity efforts.

Reflection Questions:

- What has enabled successful cooperation in the past?
- What barriers to unity exist in your specific context?
- Where do you see potential for new unity initiatives?
- How might past challenges inform future approaches?

Activity 8: Community Perception Survey

Purpose: To understand how the church is perceived by those outside the Christian community.

Instructions:

1. Develop a simple survey with questions such as:
 - When you hear the word "church," what comes to mind?
 - What positive contributions do you see churches making in our community?
 - What needs in our community do you wish churches would address?
 - What barriers prevent you from engaging with local churches?
2. Conduct the survey with diverse community members outside your church circles.
3. Compile and analyze the results, looking for patterns and insights.

Reflection Questions:

- What surprises emerged from the survey?
- How does the community's perception align or differ from the church's self-perception?
- What specific actions might bridge perception gaps?

- What strengths can be built upon and what weaknesses need to be addressed?

Bringing It All Together

After completing these research activities, gather your team for a synthesis session:

1. Review all findings and identify key themes and insights.
2. Create a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) for building authentic Christian community in your place.
3. Identify 3-5 strategic priorities based on your research.
4. Develop initial action steps for each priority.
5. Pray together, asking God to guide your application of these insights.

Remember, the goal of this research is not simply to gather information, but to discern how God is already at work in your community and how you might join Him in that work. As Jesus taught us to pray, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

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Get Support

If you'd like FREE support in implementing the principles and strategies outlined in this book, our team is here to help. Through decades of experience in both business and ministry contexts, we've developed practical frameworks for transforming communities through strategic leadership and authentic relationships.

Whether you're looking to strengthen your leadership team, develop your community strategy, or integrate technology effectively, we offer tailored services to support your journey.

To explore how we can support your vision, visit **www.ianmayer.com**

