



**CHRISTCHURCH**  
waterkloof

## **Missional Communities**

Through King Jesus we are a family of missionary servants sent as disciples who make disciples. That is our mission – we want to see people in the world around us become disciples of King Jesus.

Missional communities are the primary way we connect with others and live our lives on mission. These smaller groups of people (10-20) provide an opportunity for us to know others and be known within Christ Church Waterkloof. Through these relationships, we challenge and encourage one another to truly believe who we are in Christ and live life in a way that shows the world who God truly is.

Each missional community meets regularly to eat, learn, live, share, pray and be together on mission, living out the Gospel in real and tangible ways.

Whether you consider yourself part of the Christ Church Waterkloof family—or if you're just checking out what it looks like to live as Jesus lived—it is our desire that everyone would be an active member in one of these communities that bring life, healing and growth.

### **WHAT IS A MISSIONAL COMMUNITY?**

A Missional Community consists of a committed core of believers who live out the mission of God together in a specific area or to a particular people group by demonstrating the gospel in tangible ways and declaring the gospel to others—both those who believe it and those who are being exposed to it. To clarify, a Missional Community is NOT primarily a small group, Bible study, support group, social activist group, or weekly meeting.

Our hope is that every person who is committed to the Christ Church Waterkloof family and mission will be fully involved in a Missional Community and that eventually Missional Communities in a region will multiply and together form a new church family in their area.

Consider this... The life of the church as recorded in Acts 2:42-47 came as a result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the lives of a people collectively committed to the mission of God. The description we read about in Acts was not the means of becoming a great church, but the results of God working through a people committed to him and his mission.

Missional Communities exist to partner with God to further his mission in every part of our area for his glory sake.

The Missional Communities at Christ Church Waterkloof gather weekly in someone's home as smaller groups – but once a month all the Missional Communities gather together as the bigger church family – normally on the first Friday evening of the month – to celebrate God's goodness to us as a combined church family.

# WHAT DOES THE WEEKLY GATHERING LOOK LIKE?

## 1. Eat

Our relationships with each other are formed and strengthened as we spend time together informally. That's how we get to know each other, get excited about the good things that God is doing in our world and in our lives, and become concerned for the different challenges each of us struggles with.

An integral catalyst in this process is food. God in His wisdom has created us in such a way that as we eat together, a bond is developed between us that would otherwise not happen. This is after all how Jesus made disciples: he shared His life with people over a plate of food.

Therefore we eat together every week. If we are able to cook and wash dishes together, even better. This part of our being together is just as important as the rest of our evening.

## 2. Learn

As children of our Heavenly Father, we want to hear from Him as he assures us of His goodness and love for us, and as He directs and guides us as a family. This happens as we open up His Word, the Bible.

Before the adults gather together to hear from God, the children are read a bible story.

As a group of adults, every week we will open the Bible to the passage that was preached on the previous Sunday, and as we do this, we will ask 4 questions and help each other to answer them:

1. What impacts us? What stands out?
2. What are we unsure about? What don't we understand?
3. What does this passage challenge us to **repent** of and how does it renew our **trust** in Jesus?
4. What difference will this make to my life tomorrow? Who am I going to tell?

## 3. Live (Share life)

Just as Jesus taught his disciples not only through them **listening** to His words, but also as he shared **life** with them, so we want to ensure that as we live together with Him we also share our lives with each other.

A tangible, constructive way for this to happen is to be constantly reminded of our identity in Jesus and to ask 'How are we doing as a redeemed family of servants on mission?'

We want this to happen spontaneously but in order for it to happen we need to be intentional – so we follow 3 steps:

## **1. Discuss**

How are we doing as Redeemed people? As Family? As servants? As Missionaries?

## **2. Plan**

When something is shared in the discussion, stop and talk about it. Come up with a practical, feasible plan that will address the identified need.

Do not move on from here until there is something concrete (a 'to do' list?) on the table.

## **3. Pray**

Pray about the things you discussed here as well as the things you learned from God's Word. Pray that God would strengthen us to be a family of missionary servants sent as disciples who make disciples.

## **4. Socialise**

Drink coffee, relax and socialise further

Of course, the specific course of the evening can change at the discretion of the leader, who must be sensitive to specific needs, ad hoc events (crises), visitors, individuals who want to share too much, others who do not speak, etc. All of this means that some evenings might be very different to the normal structure. People are more important than the program or the order in which things happen, and all 4 'part's' of the evening are equally important in the formation of balanced disciples. It may even be necessary for the entire program to be set aside in order to pay attention to a specific need or desire of the group.