Community

1. **What is community**?
   1. Community is a **group of people** who share many things in common: values, goals, activities, and relationships. *Examples: school, college, work place, sports team.*  ***A community meets the needs of individuals they cannot meet themselves.***
   2. Jesus’ community was His **disciples** - Mark 3:13-14a to be with Him “Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. 14 He appointed twelve--designating them apostles--that they might be with him.”
   3. Jesus promised to build a community called the **Church**.

**The Early Church is our primary example of community**.

*The church is people who received Jesus as the Son of God and Savior*. Matthew 16:18 “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church. “ What do we share in common? A Faith, a Book, an experience, a hope, and a mission.

*A Teen Challenge community* ***ministers*** *to people with life controlling problems.*

1. **A community learns together**.
   1. The disciples learned from Jesus when He **taught** them.

when they saw His daily life. *They were with Him. They saw him pray, study, teach, respond to his enemies, worship in the synagogue and temple, his compassion for people, his agony in the garden, his death on the cross.*

when He answered their questions. *And they answered His.*

## The Early Church learned from the apostles’ teaching. Acts 2:42

* 1. Teen Challenge staff learn together in staff **training**.
  2. In Teen Challenge, students learn together in **chapel**, **classes** and small **groups**. *The classes study the principles of living based on the Bible.*

**3**. **A community works together**.

1. People **learn** through the experience of working together. *People learn from working with others*.
2. Jesus’ **disciples** worked with Him.
3. The Early Church worked together to serve their **widows***.* Acts 6:1-6
4. In Teen Challenge work programs, **staff** and **students** work together. *You accomplish more as a group than you do as an individual. At Cape Girardeau we mow lawns, restore furniture in our spray shop, operate two thrift stores and a car wash, plus many other things. Many teaching opportunities come as you work together. This can be discipleship. Mailings – work with*
   1. **A community supports one another.**
5. The Early Church supported one another by **giving** to meet needs. Acts 2:44 & 45
6. In a Christian community we support one another by:

**building** **up** one another. Ephesians 4:29 “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Romans 15:2 “Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.”

**encouraging** one another 1 Thessalonians 5:11 “encourage one another and build each other up.”

being **kind** to one another. Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another.”

1. In Teen Challenge, students are supported through one-on-one **counseling** and in small **groups.**  *We acknowledge the progress of the students and in a loving way confront them in the areas they need to change. We try to restore those who fall back into sin. Students support each other.*

**5.** **A** **community practices accountability.**

1. Jesus sent His disciples out and they **reported** back to Him. Mark 6:30 “The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.”
2. Paul and Barnabas reported back to the Early **Church** at Antioch. Acts 14:26-27 “From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. 27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”
3. Teen Challenge staff **supervise** the students in every setting. *At times the students are drug tested to make sure they are drug free.*
4. At Teen Challenge, accountability includes **discipline**. *When students break the rules or fail to do assigned tasks, they receive discipline. The discipline reminds them they are responsible to obey the rules. Examples of discipline Character Qualities (Punctuality, Alert, Truthfulness), thirty days*

**6.** **A Christian community seeks God together.**

1. In a time of need, the Early Church **prayed** together. *When they were threatened in Acts 4:23-24* “On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.” Fourteen times in Acts it mentions group prayer.
2. In Teen Challenge, we seek God together in chapel, **group** prayer, and Spiritual Emphasis **Week**. *Sometimes students get together to pray. We have had 24/7 prayer and all night prayer. In staff meetings, the staff pray for each other and the TC ministry (small groups). Pray with students.*

**7.** **A** **community develops relationships.**

* 1. Jesus’ disciples developed relationships with **each other**.
  2. Relationship words in Early Church are “**all, together, everyone, they, themselves**.” Acts 2:42-47
  3. In Teen Challenge, students develop Christian **friendships** with other students. *While they are students, they pray with one another, help one another, and encourage one another. When they complete the program many of them stay in touch and continue to help each other in their Christian walk.*
  4. Teen Challenge staff **build** relationships with the students. *They spend time with students in classes, counseling, work assignments, chapel, and recreation. In the Bible this is called discipleship. We all want to be known, recognized, and appreciated. (Learn their names.)*

**Community: a group of people who share values, goals, activities, and relationships.**

**Example: The Church**

**8*.* What can you do to help build community in your TC ministry?**

Learn together, work together, support one another, be accountable, seek God together, and develop relationships*.*

Write down at least one idea.