

Kingdom Encounters

Care Groups

Care Groups as a Community

Caring Community is based on **Acts 2:42-47**: “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

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| ☉ Centered on Christ | ☉ Regular contact with one another |
| ☉ Ministry of the Holy Spirit | ☉ Sharing meals |
| ☉ Unity | ☉ Thankful, joyous mood |
| ☉ Generous | ☉ Good reputation |
| ☉ Love expressed in word and deed | ☉ Evangelistic |

Care Group Culture

Culture is defined as “how we really do things around here.” It is the behavior that naturally flows from the attitudes and beliefs that are held in the church. The shorthand phrase we use to describe our culture is **Kingdom Encounters**. “Kingdom Encounters” is a phrase loaded with meaning. At its core it means recognizing what God is doing and joining in His work. It is simply a more contemporary way of saying “yielding to God” or “acknowledging the Lordship of Jesus” or “walking with the Spirit.”

The concept comes from **John 5:19** where Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” We want to follow Jesus’ example and cooperate with the work that God is doing in our midst. This is practiced in some very concrete ways, including:

- Following God’s initiative. He prompts; we obey.
- Loving people enough to risk rejection.

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- Relying on the direction and power of the Holy Spirit as we pray for people.
- Being available for God's use around the clock and in all circumstances.
- Praying for divine appointments—meetings created by God to influence others and impact our city.
- Being naturally supernatural. Doing nothing for religious effect. Dialing down, getting out of the way, and letting God do miraculous things through us.
- Doing what God has already revealed in his Word. This includes proclaiming and demonstrating the good news of the Kingdom by being generous, caring for the poor and oppressed, healing the sick, driving out demons, seeking the lost, and teaching new disciples to do the same.

(Acts 10:38; Gal. 6:10)