Ingredients of 3D Community Groups

If you were to go out and bake a cake, you would have some core ingredients to that cake. Namely, flour, sugar, and eggs. Now from there, you could go in several directions with the icing, flavors, or the size of the cake. But at its core, it would still be cake.

So what are the core ingredients of community at Crosspoint? If I were to be a part of one community group, but then 6 months later move to another, how do we know that at their core, the experiences will be similar? Or what about a woman who attends Mom’s GIFT, or a man who goes to a Saturday morning men’s group? How can we build a common thread through all forms of community? Will they be completely identical? No, and that isn’t the goal. The goal is to be unified in such a way where we know that no matter the form or flavor of community, there are some core ingredients that make it what it is...3D Community.

At the most simplified level, 3D community is tied directly to our vision. It is not separate from it, but should be driving us toward a 3D way of life. So in 3D Community, we grow to be more devoted to Jesus, dedicated to one another, and driven to reach people. In Jesus’ words, we live out the Great Commandment and Great Commission (Love God, Love Others, Go and Make Disciples). Comparing it to the 3 basic ingredients of a cake, if we are in 3D community, and we’re not talking about growing in our love for Jesus, and one another, and how to make disciples, then we’re missing a core ingredient, and it no longer is 3D community.

Now, if we were to drill down a bit deeper on the recipe of 3D Community, we would find the following eight ingredients:

**Studying the Bible**
At the end of the day, the Bible is the primary text we should be studying and ‘eating from.’ So if we are reading through a book, or watching a DVD, it should ultimately be driving us further into the Word in our daily lives.

**Learning Together**
With the Bible as our foundation, in community we are learning together from it. We are wrestling with and discussing the application of Scripture’s truth to lives. We go about learning with humble hearts, and looking to sharpen one another in our faith (Proverbs 27:17).

**Praying Together**
In community, we not only gather to study the Word and build relationships, but to pray together. Prayer it not an afterthought or just tacked to the end of the time together, but it is an opportunity for us to worship and seek God together.

**One Anothering**
There are over 50 “one another’s” in Scripture. Love, care for, bear with, forgive, pray for encourage, spur on...one another. Those one another’s can’t be practiced in isolation. 3D Community is mutual and shared.

**Authenticity**
The atmosphere in 3D community should be a safe place to call home, and an environment where we can be authentic and honest before a loving God and friends. No ‘perfect people’ are allowed in 3D Community.

**Consistent Time Together**
A 3D Community group is intentional about making time to be together. They set aside time in their calendars, and make face to face relationship time a priority in their schedules. They eat together and share life together in relationship.

**Spiritual Gifts**
As a part of the Body of Christ, every believer is given spiritual gifts to serve and build up one another. In 3D Community, we express and use these spiritual gifts (mercy, encouragement, administration, hospitality, etc.) for the glory of God.

**Making disciples**
Jesus commands us to go and make disciples. So in 3D Community, we are not just growing as a disciple, but we are taking what we are learning and then sharing it with others (disciplemaking). As a result 3D Community is overflowing to others and multiplying.