

GROWING A COMMUNITY | Participant Guide

Writing Prework

Go back to the MVC template and fill out boxes 5-9 on the [Minimum Viable Community template](#) created by [the Community Canvas](#).

Scriptural Foothold

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

John 20:21-23 NRSV

Food for Thought

The key to growing a community is giving it away. When a church planter begins their work they are responsible for everything from sermons to sweeping. It can be easy to get accustomed to this but it offers a certain level of control. It’s also a bottleneck that can prevent growth. Growth comes when we discover the gifts of the head, heart and hands of those showing up and empower them to contribute to your collective thriving.

For Reflection *(please write down your answers)*

1. What are the accomplishments of your new community thus far?
2. How could you celebrate the accomplishments above together?
3. Where can you empower others to contribute in the life of your new community?
4. Websites like Yelp and Amazon made it easy for consumers to recommend what they love and purchase based on others’ recommendations. List 6 ways you could make it easy for your members to share what they love about your community. Be as creative or ridiculous or practical as you like.

Taking Action *(please fill out during our session together)*

In support of cultivating a new faith community:

For me: I commit to _____, starting _____,
and I will ask _____ to be my accountability partner.

For my team: I will train my team on community growth on _____.

Additional Resources

Reis, Eric, *The Lean Startup*. New York: Crown Business, 2011.