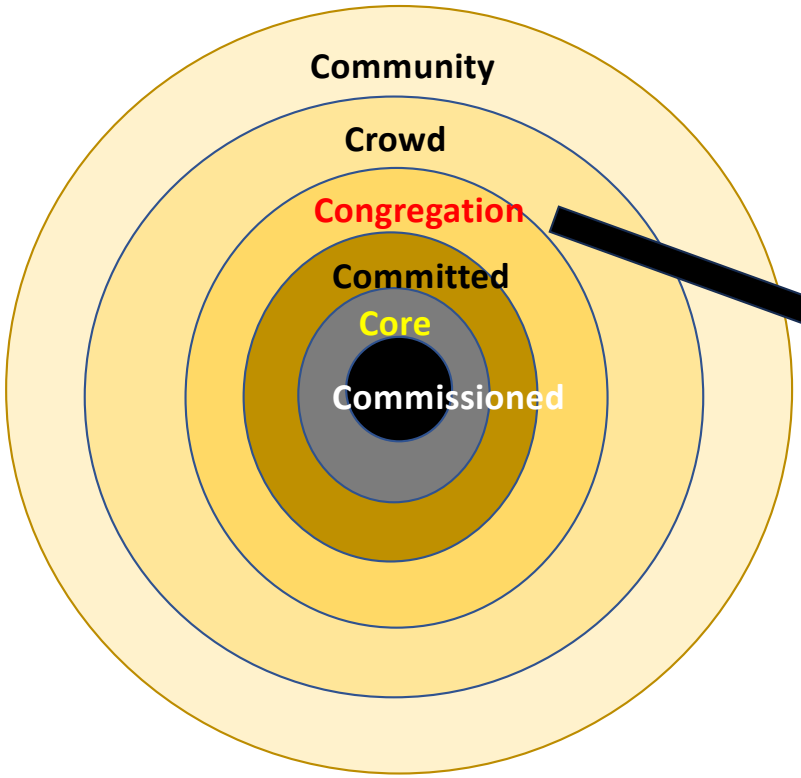

Ambassadors
of Christ (7)
https://www.shalomgrove.net/our-services

Ambassador Songs



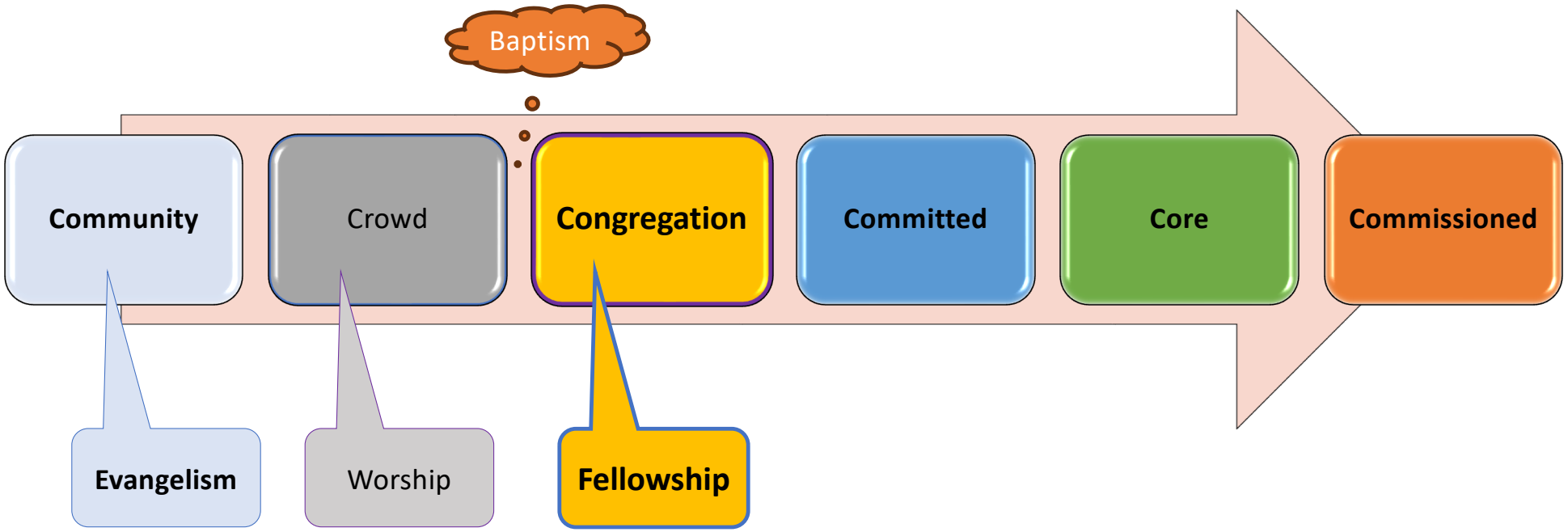
Ambassador Song

Identifying the target



The Community	The uncommitted people who live within your ministry area
The Crowd	The people who are committed to attending worship each week
The Congregation	Those who have committed to membership
The Committed	Those who have committed to maturity
The Core	Those who have committed to ministry
The Commissioned	Those who have committed to their mission

Different Strategies Needed to Each Target



Building your congregation (crowd -> congregation)

Community

- Unchurched (the pool of lost people, no commitment at all to Jesus Christ.
- This is where the purpose of evangelism takes place.

Crowd

- They come to your church/ministry, they may be believers or non-believers.
- Once a person has received Christ, your goal is to move him/her into congregation.

Congregation

- Now they are regular attenders and official members of your church/ministry.
- They are committed to the purpose of fellowship.

What It Means To Be a Member

- God expects us to be a member of a family
  - The difference between being a Christian and being a member of a church family is the commitment. I become a Christian by committing my life to Christ.
  - Becoming a member of a church means to commit myself to God, the church, and other Christians.
- Benefits to membership
  - It identifies me as a genuine believer.
  - It gives me a special family for support.
  - It provides a place to discover and use my gifts in ministry.
  - It places me under the spiritual protection of godly leaders.
  - It gives me the accountability I need to grow.
- A Christian without a church family is an orphan
  - Every Christian needs a church family. A Christian without a church family is like a person who says, "I want to play soccer but I don't want to be a part of any team."

Membership Covenant (Example)

Having received Christ as my Lord and savior and been baptized, and being an agreement with Shalom Grove's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Shalom Grove church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. *I will protect the unity of the church.*
2. *I will share the responsibility of the church.*
3. *I will serve the ministry of the church.*
4. *I will support the testimony of the church.*

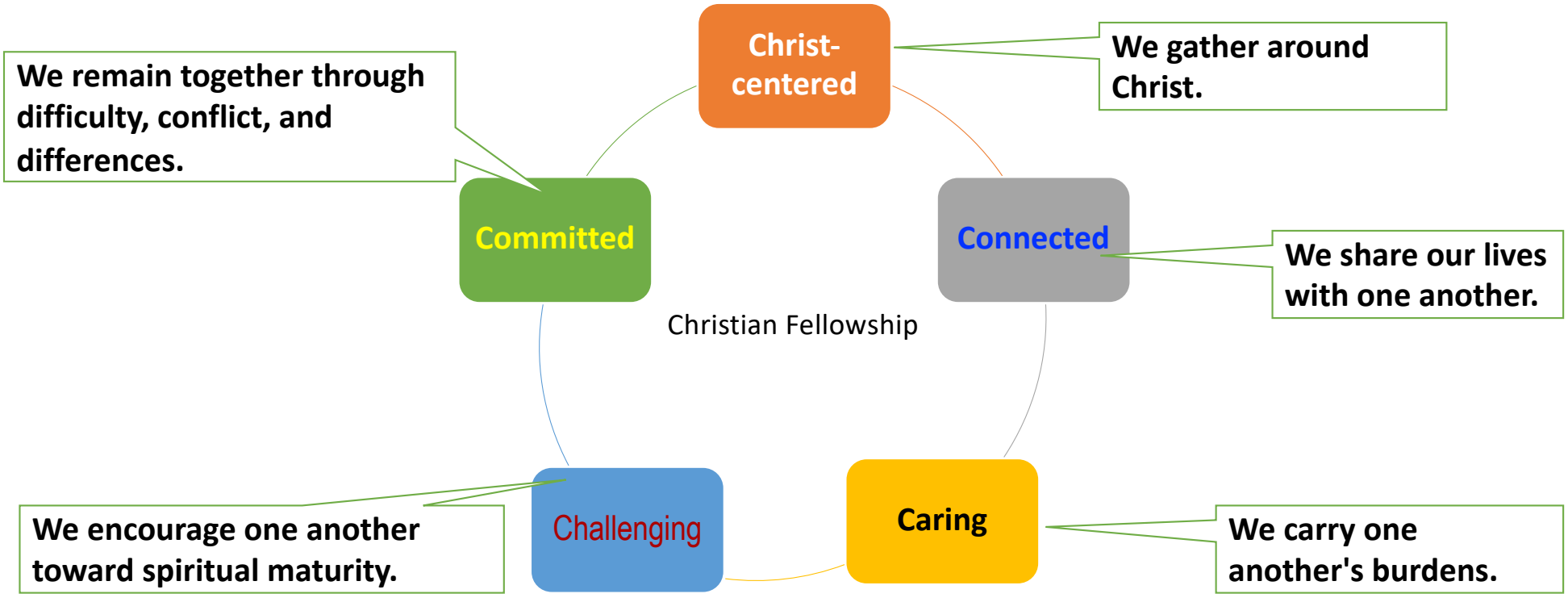
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Date Name

Fellowship (Koinonia)

- Fellowship
  - Social fellowship vs. Christian fellowship
  - We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ (1 John 1:3).
  - Fellowship with God → fellowship with believers. We are brought together because we share Christ.
  - Fellow + Ship (Two fellows in the same ship).
- Authentic fellowship is centered on Christ
  - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42).
  - Their fellowship was built around apostolic teaching—the truth about Jesus Christ. Authentic fellowship is not merely being together; it is being together around Christ and His truth.

5Cs of Authentic Fellowship



Principles of Authentic Fellowship

- Authentic fellowship requires genuine presence
  - I am with you.
  - Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15).
  - We celebrate with them. We suffer with them.
- Authentic fellowship means sharing one another's burdens
  - How are you? -> How are you really doing? How can I walk with you through this?
  - We don’t have to walk alone.
- Authentic fellowship includes accountability and spiritual growth
  - (God to Cain) “Where is Abel your brother?” And he (Cain) said, “I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?”(Genesis 4:9).
  - It is also about helping one another become more like Christ.
  - Authentic fellowship includes encouragement and loving accountability.
  - Authentic fellowship is not fellowship without conflict; it is fellowship that knows how to deal with conflict biblically

How Do We Develop Fellowship

- Move from rows to circles
  - Sunday worship is important, but authentic fellowship requires smaller relational environments.
  - Develop small groups, prayer meetings, bible studies, ministry teams, intergenerational gatherings
  - Large gatherings create corporate worship; smaller gatherings create relational depth.
- Create a culture of vulnerability
  - The church needs to communicate: You can be honest here.
  - But vulnerability must also be accompanied by confidentiality, wisdom, and pastoral care.
  - Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

- Practice one another Christianity
  - The New Testament repeatedly uses **“one another”** language.
  - We are commanded to love/encourage/serve/forgive/pray/teach another.
  - It is Christ in me, in you and among us.
- Eat together
  - They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts (Acts 2:46).
  - Meals create opportunities for conversation that programs often cannot create.
  - Table fellowship can become spiritual fellowship..
  - Physical water->Living water, Lord’s Supper, Love Feast, Agape Meal.
- Encourage generosity
  - All the believers were together and had everything in common (Acts 2:44-45).
  - Christian fellowship produces practical generosity.
  - Authentic fellowship turns “your problem” into “our concern.

My Christian Fellowship Covenant

- Because I belong to Christ and am part of His body, I commit myself to pursue authentic Christian fellowship with my brothers and sisters in Christ.

My Promise

- I will LOVE one another.
- I will BE PRESENT for one another.
- I will CARRY one another's burdens
- I will SPEAK truth in love.
- I will FORGIVE and SEEK reconciliation.
- I will PROTECT the dignity of others.
- I will SERVE rather than simply be served.
- I will WELCOME and INCLUDE others.
- I will KEEP CHRIST at the CENTER.

My Commitment

- I will not simply attend the ministry; I will belong to the body.
- I will not simply know people; I will walk with people.
- I will not simply receive care; I will care for others.
- I will not simply seek agreement; I will pursue unity.
- I will not simply gather; I will fellowship.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another (John 13:35)