



The **CROWN** Rhythm

CROWN Communities

Drawing From: Home Groups / Small Groups / Missional Communities / Lent Groups.

PURPOSE	A CROWN Community is intentional in helping its members grow as disciples and reach out to others through forming their own personal CROWN rules as part of St Michael's wider vision. This is the core place of belonging for members of St Michael's, and the primary unit of growth.
COMMITMENT	There is a clear commitment and vision for the group to grow in faith, as family together, in mission, and numbers to the point of multiplication. Members also make a commitment to the mission and a discipleship journey together using the CROWN framework to encourage daily discipleship and personal growth.
LEADERSHIP	There are at least 2 leaders who will be clearly identified and can be approached by newcomers to the church. As the group grows, a team should emerge, ideally encompassing the five-fold ministry (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers). The leadership group take responsibility for the nurture and growth of their membership family.
SUPPORT	Key leaders will be in a Huddle, to support them in leading the ministry, connect them with others leading similar groups and ensure the group is in the flow of the wider vision of St Michael's.
SIZE	Usually 6+ growing to a Mid-Size of up to 30 as practical venue space allows. As the groups grow, whilst continuing to meet together as family or 'Oikos' in the larger gathering (see COMMUNITY), they might break down or split into smaller groups for discipling. This could be in different rooms on the same evening or flowing out into different venues.
HOW OFTEN?	The group will need to meet regularly enough to feel like family (see Community), for the atmosphere of support, encouragement and accountability to work well, a group should meet at least fortnightly for discipling input. Groups with a shared mission focus will also incorporate rhythms of living out that mission together.
SHARED RHYTHMS	<p>It might be helpful to form some shared rhythms together to help fulfil the group's purpose. (e.g. If the group meets to share food regularly this will be part of everyone's CROWN COMMUNITY rhythm.)</p> <p>Forming shared rhythms together helps fulfil the groups purpose. So, if the group shares in a Mission Expression (e.g. Chase Chill), members' rhythms might include a commitment to that and to engage with People of Peace in appropriate ways both before and afterwards. Likewise, if the group meets to share food regularly, this will be part of everyone's COMMUNITY rhythm.</p>

SIMPLICITY & CONSOLIDATION	It is good to avoid creating too many different meetings, so if food is shared, do that at the times people would normally eat - and keep it simple. Also, to combine this with some of the other patterns of the group, so, for example, if you meet weekly to share a meal - twice a month meet straight afterwards for the discipling elements. You might also stay together another time to seek God and pray for the group's mission. <i>This pattern would make a group a once a week commitment.</i>
DISCIPLING	The style of the group adds coaching and mentoring approaches to a more traditional study - with the aim of help people <i>move from Bible Study to Bible Living</i> . It will be usual to spend more extended time on applying a principle and helping people embed that into their lives. Once patterns are getting established, it's simple to apply other group material to the CROWN framework. <i>See: Simple Questions for Every Bible Study, and other CROWN resources.</i>
COMMUNITY	A group needs to share life and rhythms enough so it feels like the biblical "household" or "family." This can be expressed in a number of ways, but regular sharing of food or social patterns is a usual and helpful way. Creativity is Family could be expressed in shared resources, support, care, and connection through the week (e.g. WhatsApp for those who are often away.)
NETWORKS: SHARING & ENABLING MISSION OR COMMON MISSION:	<p>Every CROWN Community has a mission focus. For some, this will be in response to a clear and collective call; for others it will be a commitment to support each other as members reach out to their various networks.</p> <p>SHARING & ENABLING MISSION: Mission is expressed by supporting each other in personal connections with People of Peace. The social rhythms of a group should create places that non-Christians can connect with.</p> <p>COMMON MISSION: Members share a clear and specific vision for mission which they are working towards, and share rhythms to achieve this. The group will have a clear plan to fulfil its missional vision and call. This might mean a regular activity to engage with the community or network they are reaching out to, and within their meeting patterns, to pray for their mission and People of Peace.</p> <p>Whichever patterns a group follows for mission, both should grow in expectation that people who they connect with can come to faith. Groups should seek to support members to live out mission in their context and enable the establishing of a strong Networks rhythm.</p> <p>Members will be being equipped to reach their People of Peace, within the patterns of their daily lives, learning how to take appropriate next steps to draw them towards Jesus. The social rhythms of a group should be (or join with) places and events that non-Christians would feel able to connect with.</p> <p>It is possible for a group to evolve between these patterns so, for example, a group may gradually discern a collective mission focus, and start to shape some of their patterns around that. This may also be a means of 'multiplication' where a group 'sends' some of their members to pursue a specific call to reach a network.</p>
OFFERING	Outside of the core patterns, the group may find ways of serving together - another way of deepening relationships together.

MATERIAL & RESOURCES

The groups can use the various CROWN resources:

- CROWN teaching videos - see www.crownrule.life
- Life-Beats Studies (like the Lent Course)
- Using CROWN to Disciple: A simple process for Groups and Triplets.
- Getting Started Tool
- Discipling Discussion Questions.
- Going Deeper Tool

Leaders also have access to:

- CROWN Mentor Guide.
- Mentor Quick Guides, specific pointers for leading people deeper into Community, Re-Create, Offering, Word and Networks.

At the same time, we recognise that once people's basic rhythms are in place, a diet of CROWN material alone may not be enough! However, study of the Scriptures should always lead to life-change and therefore continue to inform and shape our rhythms.

In this respect, we have developed a simple question set - based on the immensely successful *Discovery Bible Study* method which can be used for any Bible study. This pattern, pioneered by missionaries, has helped non-Christians engage with the Scriptures with tens of thousands coming to faith in a wide variety of cultures, contexts and settings.

See Guide: *CROWN: Questions for any Bible Study*

Interestingly, research has shown that time spent in preparation for groups and studies has little affect on whether a group grows. The crucial factor is prayer.

Resources for groups and leaders can be accessed from www.crownrule.life