



## THE ILLUMINATE COMMUNITY PLAYBOOK

### **WELCOME TO ILLUMINATE COMMUNITY**

Illuminate Indy's story began in late 2015, when God began the process of calling and sending a group of people to the city of Indianapolis, IN to join in the kingdom work of Illuminating Christ and making His disciples. In 2016 this group began meeting weekly in their homes, and in the Spring of 2017, Illuminate Indy began holding weekly public services on non-traditional meeting times in the building of another church.

In the spring of 2019, Illuminate Indy's leadership sensed God leading this community of faith to something different than a traditional model of church planting. So Illuminate Indy moved services to Sunday mornings in the setting of a home.

### **Illuminate Community is not a place. It's a people.**

In our experience, we have seen people grow spiritually and experience renewed hope through intentional & vibrant community. While our "traditional" service meeting times ebbed and flowed with attendance and involvement, our Community Groups have always flourished and multiplied. After much prayer and introspective thought and dialogue, we've chosen to follow a non-traditional church model of Networked Groups that intentionally multiply new groups through making disciples.

### **Illuminate Community is a non-traditional church model of Networked Groups.**

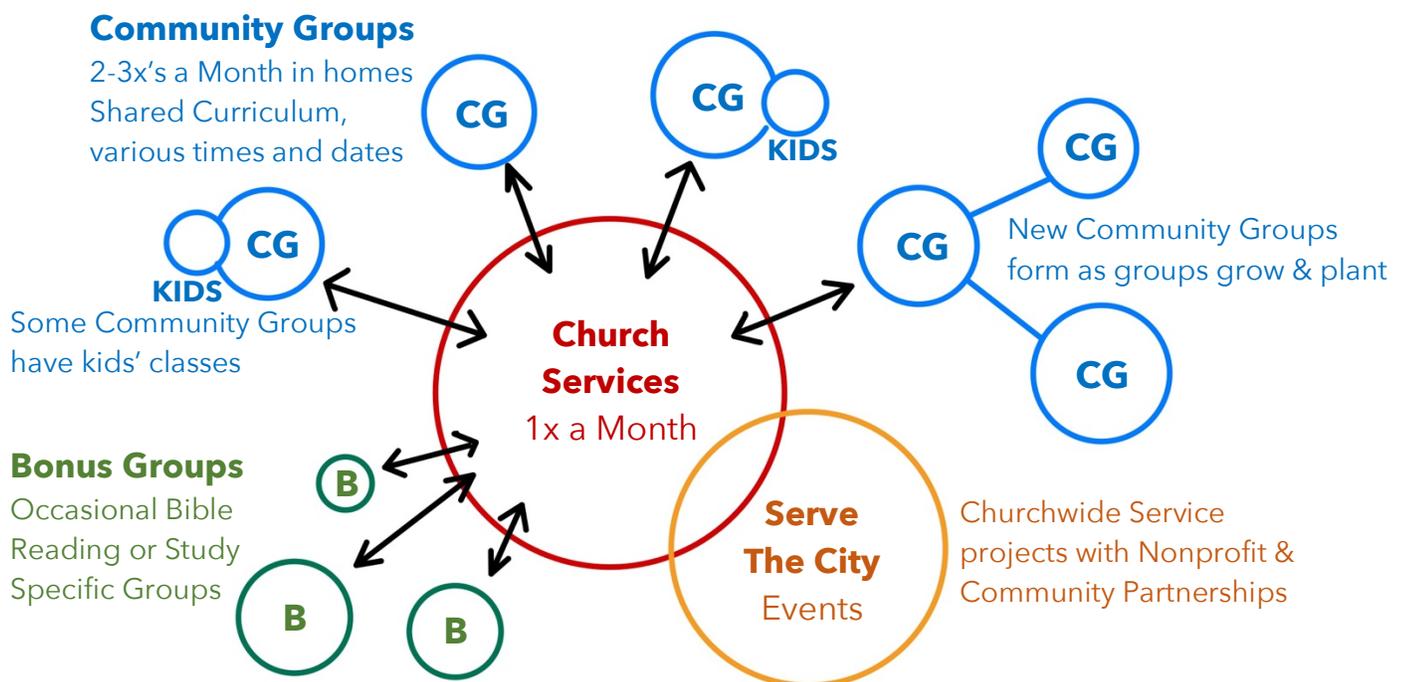
Illuminate Community is made up of Community Groups that meet in homes, as well as Bonus "discipleship-based" Groups. All Groups will also meet collectively for a Monthly Church Service. Each is described more fully below:

**Weekly Community Groups** - People gather in homes, share a meal (or snacks) and have church service. All Community Groups services consist of a time of worship, a time of corporate prayer, a time of teaching from a shared source (either produced by Illuminate or from a video devotional), and a time of discussion facilitated by the Group's Community Builder. We also include opportunities for kids & youth to gather, learn and grow as part of this format.

**Bonus Groups** - These are our groups that take place outside of the weekly Home Groups. Bonus groups consist of Bible Reading Groups, Child and Youth Groups or occasional Bible Studies. We call them "Bonus Groups" because we understand that life can be full, and making it to more than one gathering a week can be difficult. So it's truly a great bonus during some seasons to be a part of another group in the same week! These groups do not necessarily have shared formats and curriculum. Bonus Groups can meet anyplace, anytime.

**Monthly Church Services** - All Community & Bonus Groups come together to a centralized location once a month for music, Bible teaching, launching of new groups and stories of life change happening throughout Illuminate Community. Each Group forgoes meeting the week of the Monthly Service to encourage participation in the Monthly Churchwide Service.

### \*Illuminate Community: A Networked Group Church Model\*



Entry Points can be through Services, Community & Bonus Groups, or Serve Events

#### Additional Details

- o People can join Illuminate Community through Community Groups, Bonus Groups or Monthly Services at any time.
- o Community Groups share the same teachings and are comprised of teaching series that change every 3-8 weeks. These are either created by Illuminate or come from a video study. Series are pre-determined and planned for the year

by Illuminate leadership. All teachings can be accessed through our app, smart TV or streaming players, and through our website.

- Community Groups will also be provided with “Leader Guides” with discussion questions and format suggestions for each week’s meeting.
- All Community Groups will include a “Community Time” of sharing a meal or snacks, and beverages. This can be before or after the service at the choice of the CG’s host/builder.
- Some Community Groups have a lesson for kids including Bible teaching, songs & crafts. Community Builders & Hosts will work with Illuminate Leadership to determine the feasibility and strategy regarding children’s ministry.
- All Community Groups will be led by Community Builders who will establish the group’s “Co-Builders” who will lead with them and share leading responsibilities. These Co-Builders could also potentially be sent to lead their own Community Group in time.
- We are always seeking to multiply CG’s through growth, or sending out new leaders.
- Community Groups will be given a monthly budget to support food and paper goods costs.
- Monthly Services will function in many of the same ways a traditional service would, with classes for children. Youth will join the adults.
- Bonus Groups must start by being approved by Illuminate Leadership and led by a Pastor, Community Builder or a leader who has completed the one-session Bonus Group Leader Training to ensure the Group shares the common values, expectations and culture of Illuminate Community.

**When community is intentional in following Jesus together, we see:**

- Life Transformation take place
- Identity in Christ is established and reinforced
- The Hurting, Brokenhearted and Hopeless find refuge
- Marriages can start well and marriages can be healed
- Families made whole
- Children are raised with Christ-centered self-esteem and confidence
- The outcast, disenfranchised and lonely find a home in community
- People are encouraged to recognize and help meet the needs around them
- People are equipped, empowered and released to serve and lead in their community
- More resources made available to help people in need, locally and globally

## **\* WHAT ILLUMINATE CELEBRATES AS OUR WINS \***

**INVITATION** - We celebrate stories of invitation: invitation to be a part of community, our gatherings, to participate in serving others, to give their lives' to Christ and to become a follower of Jesus.

**CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY** - We celebrate the intentional and active participation of people in the community of Illuminate. It's more than just "attending", it is serving, giving and living life in partnership with others.

**LIFE CHANGE** - We celebrate when lives are changed by the gospel, led to continual growth by the Holy Spirit and causes us to be agents of change in our surrounding communities.

**MULTIPLICATION** - We choose to see God's Kingdom as more than just "one singular church", and celebrate when our community multiplies in new groups. We see multiplication of groups as success in that new leaders are being empowered and sent to lead others to follow Jesus.

*Bonus Points:*

**WOULD OUR CHURCH SURVIVE A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE?** - If it were to ever hit (or maybe something less epic and apocalyptic, like weather or really bad traffic) could our community of faith still keep going? We aim to answer this question with a YES! For more on this thought process: <https://bensternke.com/zombie-apocalypse/>

## **\* OUR CULTURE OF COMMUNITY \*** **"STAY HUMBLE & RESPECTFUL"**

No interrupting, cross talk, talking down or over others, platforming yourself, or overtaking the conversation

Limit your sharing to allow other voices to be heard

We are here to support one another, not "fix" another

Silence is NOT a bad thing.

What is shared in the Group stays in the Group

## **\* ILLUMINATE COMMUNITY GROUP BUILDERS & HOSTS \***

Illuminate Community exists to illuminate hope by leading people to follow Jesus. That's the premise of all we do. Because we have a non-traditional church model the role of our Community Builders and Home Group Hosts is vitally important. These people encourage, support and lead the members of our church on a weekly basis.

Having a common language and expectations is crucial to maintaining the vibrant, positive, diverse and ultimately Jesus-centric culture we are establishing. These expectations are also reciprocated - the Illuminate Community Leadership Team is committed to caring well for our Community Builders, and Hosts by doing all they can to help them succeed in their roles, and flourish as individuals.

### **Community Builders should:**

1. Believe that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior and be water baptized
2. Be baptized in the Holy Spirit and seek spiritual gifts
3. Agree with The Foursquare Church's theological statements
4. Be committed to a life of integrity
5. Committed to missional living - you're loving your neighbors and co-workers, showing them the love of Christ
6. Be teachable and submitted to the leadership of Illuminate Community
7. Represent themselves and Illuminate Community positively on social media, respecting that our church is diverse in their political and social beliefs
8. Be a consistent participant of a Community Group for 6 months
9. Participate in coaching and training. This can include serving alongside a current Community Group leader
10. Complete the Community Builder Training Course
11. Attend monthly church services
12. Attend Leader dinner meetings once a month
13. Communicate regularly with members of your Community Group
14. Be prepared each week, including having reviewed the curriculum, made needed adjustments to the questions, and made print outs for the group (as needed)
15. Work with the Family Pastor and your Home Group Host (if the Community Builder is not also the Host) to establish a sustainable plan for kids (if needed)
16. Identify and Empower a Group "Co-Builder", who can lead with them and share responsibilities
17. Always be looking for the next Community Builder that can: a) Take over your Community Group so you can start a new one or b) Multiply out to start their own Community Group.
18. As your group grows, be willing to multiply new groups out of yours

19. Practice tithing to Illuminate Community
20. Complete a background check and the Foursquare Child and Youth Safety Training

### **Our Commitments to all Community Builders:**

1. Provide clear communication of plans, vision and expectations
2. Provide a variety of well-reviewed or created curriculum, as well as coordinate purchasing of needed materials, including curriculum, Bibles, paper, ink
3. Provide relevant, on-going leadership training
4. Provide pastoral and coaching support in dealing with situations that arise in your Community Group
5. Provide storage for equipment and supplies (as needed)
6. Support in establishing a good communication system that works well for your Community Group
7. Promote your Community Group
8. Provide personal prayer, coaching and support for you as a Community Builder
9. Support Community Builders that want to pursue pastoral licensing through Foursquare, biblical training or occupational ministry opportunities
10. Help establish healthy leadership rhythms, including sabbath, self-care and scheduled breaks.
11. Support Community Builders as seasons in life change and adjustments need to be made to a home group (schedule, prolonged break). Community Group commitments are finite. We will navigate those changes together.

### **Community Group Hosts Should:**

1. Believe that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior and be water baptized
2. Practice hospitality by opening their home for a home group. Ensure your home is picked up and safe.
3. Organize (or delegate) a plan for a potluck, or food needs
4. Organize (or delegate) a plan for kids (if needed)
5. Communicate with the Community Builder to ensure that you're both prepared each week, including tech needs, printouts, etc.
6. Be committed to a life of integrity
7. Committed to missional living - you're loving your neighbors and co-workers, showing them the love of Christ
8. Be teachable and submitted to the leadership of Illuminate Community
9. Represent themselves and Illuminate Community positively on social media, respecting that our church is diverse in their political and social beliefs

10. As your group grows, be willing to plant new groups out of yours
11. Complete a background check and the Foursquare Child and Youth Safety Training

### **Our Commitments to all Community Group Hosts:**

1. Provide clear communication of plans, vision and expectations
2. Financial support for Community Groups, as needed, including:
  - a. Durable goods, like furniture (folding chairs, kids table and chairs, whiteboard)
  - b. Disposable goods, like supplies, plates, napkins, supplemental food
3. Provide materials for kids' lessons, including fill-in teachers and curriculum
4. Provide storage for equipment and supplies (as needed)
5. Provide personal prayer, coaching and support for you as a Community Group Host
6. Pray over and bless your home before your group starts meeting there
7. Support Home Group Hosts as seasons in life change and adjustments need to be made to a home group (schedule, prolonged break). Home Group commitments are finite. We will navigate those changes together.

### **Bonus Group Leaders should:**

1. Believe that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior and be water baptized
2. Agree with The Foursquare Church's theological statements
3. Be committed to a life of integrity
4. Committed to missional living - you're loving your neighbors and co-workers, showing them the love of Christ
5. Be teachable and submitted to the leadership of Illuminate Community
6. Represent themselves and Illuminate Community positively on social media, respecting that our church is diverse in their political and social beliefs
7. Be a consistent participant of a Community Group
8. Participate in coaching and training.
9. Complete the One-Session Bonus Group Leader Training
10. Attend monthly church services
11. Communicate regularly with members of your Bonus Group
12. Be prepared each week, including having reviewed the curriculum, made needed adjustments to the questions, and made print outs for the group (as needed)
13. Work with the Family Pastor and your Home Group Host (if the Community Builder is not also the Host) to establish a sustainable plan for kids (if needed)
14. Practice tithing to Illuminate Community

15. Complete a background check and the Foursquare Child and Youth Safety Training

**Our Commitments to all Bonus Group Leaders:**

1. Provide clear communication of plans, vision and expectations
2. Provide a variety of well-reviewed or created curriculum, as well as coordinate purchasing of needed materials, including curriculum, Bibles, paper, ink
3. Provide relevant, on-going leadership training
4. Provide pastoral and coaching support in dealing with situations that arise in your Bonus Group
5. Support in establishing a good communication system that works well for your Bonus Group
6. Promote your Bonus Group
7. Provide personal prayer, coaching and support for you as a Leader
8. Help establish healthy leadership rhythms, including sabbath, self-care and scheduled breaks.
9. Establish a plan for the length and duration of the Bonus Group with the Leader