



Community and Spiritual Formation

Faculty Guide

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND FORMATION (*MOVING FROM PRACTICES TO SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES*)

This week frames the learning that students will be doing and the practices that they will be employing as they work through the Practices for Success in Team Science curriculum. The driving concept is: thriving *community* enables scientific teams to work together successfully. Community will be discussed frequently throughout the curriculum, but it may be helpful to provide some faith-based context about community at the beginning of this journey with your students.

Here are some helpful ideas about community from Calhoun's *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook* (2015):

- *Definition:* Christian community exists when believers connect with each other in authentic and loving ways that encourage growth in Christ.
- Community entails investing in and journeying with others, and exercising your gifts in fellowship with others
- The benefits of community include: moving from independence and self-absorption to others-centeredness, growing in love and concern from others, having a relational rather than functional definition of identity, offering and receiving forgiveness and reconciliation, speaking truth in love, participating in a small group where you are known and encouraged to grow in faith, *becoming a part of a community that is larger than yourself and your own goals, possessions, and achievements*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What additional depth or richness might we experience because this work of community building is being done in a Christian context?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Collaboration and Team Science Field Guide (NIH/NCI): <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crs/research-initiatives/team-science-field-guide>
- VIA FAQs: <https://www.viacharacter.org/faq>
- *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us*, Adele Calhoun, 2015, InterVarsity Press.