

Ten Building Blocks for Grace-Filled Community

Adapted from *Community and Growth* by Jean Vanier

- 1. Belonging:** Knowing that we have a place where we fit in, are accepted and are appreciated; not feeling left out or rejected
- 2. Inclusiveness:** We are willing to be friends with people who are different from us
- 3. Healing and Growth:** When we are sad or distressed there are people who will comfort us; when we are struggling, there are people who will help us to get stronger; a place where we develop more strengths and abilities
- 4. Openness:** We are able to be honest, candid, and to genuinely share who we are; welcoming to new people
- 5. Caring:** We are kind, thoughtful, gentle, concerned for and considerate of those who have needs
- 6. Patience:** When others bother us, or we don't get our own way, we endure and persevere without complaining or speaking badly of others or the situation
- 7. Cooperation:** We all help each other by bringing the skills and resources we have together towards a common goal; teamwork
- 8. Using Our Gifts:** We contribute our gifts and talents towards the good of the community and we encourage others in the gifts they have
- 9. Forgiveness:** We ask for forgiveness when we have hurt someone, we forgive when we have been wronged
- 10. Mutual Trust:** We have faith and belief in others and we rely on them just as they can rely on us to do our best – we understand that we also disappoint others and so give grace when they disappoint us

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of these 10 Building Blocks are part of my current community? What are some examples of how I experience these Building Blocks in my community?
2. What has helped to make these Building Blocks part of the foundation of our community? What “**Practices**” put these Building Blocks in place for us?
3. On the next page, **list Practices** that help to develop your supportive community.