



NE»XT
STEPS

Our
Church
Family

16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God

These are the non-negotiable tenets of faith that all Assemblies of God churches adhere. This list is derived from the official *Statement of Fundamental Truths*.

WE BELIEVE:

1. The Scriptures are inspired by God
2. There is only one true God
3. In the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ
4. Man willingly fell into sin
5. Every person can have restored fellowship with God through *salvation*
6. Water Baptism by immersion and Holy Communion
7. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a special experience following salvation
8. The initial physical evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is *speaking in tongues*
9. Sanctification initially occurs at salvation
10. The Church has a mission
11. A divinely called and scripturally ordained leadership ministry serves the Church
12. Divine healing of the sick is a privilege for Christians today
13. The Blessed Hope- when Jesus raptures His Church prior to His return to earth
14. The Millennial reign of Christ
15. A final judgement will take place
16. New heavens and a new earth

Serving Within Our Family: Ministry & Missions

Serving within the church to build up the body of believers is extremely important to ensure a strong family that is being sent out to impact the world. We have many opportunities on Sundays & Wednesdays for people to encourage, help, pray, teach, lead and assist this local body in the mission God has given us.

• 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

At Central Assembly there are a number of different ministries where you can volunteer your time and talents. The following are just some of the areas where you can serve:

- Caring
- Central Kids
- Creative Arts
- Helps
- Hospitality
- Office
- Outreach
- The I Rock: Student Ministries

A detailed list of all our ministries can be found in the **Test Drive** booklet.

How We Care For You

Psalms 55:22 *Cast your cares on the LORD and He will sustain you.*

At Central, we want to be the hands and feet of Jesus in caring for our church family. We do this in several ways:

Hospital Visits: we want to visit you in the midst of an illness, accident, or surgery that results in a hospital stay. Please contact the church if this occurs.

Pastor On-Call: in an effort to care for you during an extreme emergency or life-threatening situation, we have a 24-hour Pastor On-Call. If such an event occurs after church office hours, call the church and listen for the Pastor On-Call instructions.

Stephen Ministry: our team of Stephen ministers are trained volunteers available to provide long term, one-on-one, Christian care for those struggling with a major life transition. This includes: job loss, ongoing illness, death of a loved one, divorce, or even a new baby. Contact our Pastoral Team to get connected with a Stephen Minister.

Community Care Team: this team of volunteers regularly visits those who are shut-in, in a nursing home, or unable to attend church for various reasons. They offer encouragement, prayer & Holy Communion.

Card Ministry: for those who cannot attend church, we want you to know that you are missed and not forgotten. If we are aware of your current limitations, you will receive cards on special occasions, holidays, and simply to let you know we care.

Thinking of You: there are different reasons people can't attend church and we want you to know you have been missed. For every four consecutive weeks missed, we will send an email or postcard to let you know that we are thinking of you.

Exit Interview & Blessing: God may lead you to worship at another church someday. Though we don't want anyone to go, we want the Lord's blessing to lead you. In order to do this, we meet with you, learn more about your situation, and pray a blessing over you and your family.

As we attempt to care for you in greater ways, nothing replaces the care that the body offers to each other. Let's move forward as a family as we live out

Galatians 6:2 - *Carry each other's burdens, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ.*



Grow:
**Spiritual
Maturity**

The Purpose for Growth

At Central, we encourage all our members to take time outside of our worship services to grow individually with God through prayer, fasting, and reading God's Word.

Colossians 4:12 ...that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

Ephesians 4:14-15 Then we will no longer be immature like children... growing in every way more and more like Christ...

The purpose of the *Next Steps* class is to provide the tools necessary to help each believer become a spiritually mature disciple of Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Maturity is _____

Romans 8:29 For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son...

Spiritual maturity is not _____

Spiritual maturity is a _____

Spiritual maturity takes _____

Prayer

Just like with any other relationship, an extremely important part of your relationship with God is your communication with Him.

Prayer is any _____ you have with God.

The purpose of daily prayer time is to _____

more like _____.

The more time you spend with someone, the more you become like them.

Jesus taught us how to pray in **Matthew 6:9-13**

This then is how you should pray. Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 Rejoice always; pray without ceasing.

Keep it _____ and share your heart with God.

Be _____.

Be honest and transparent with Him. Let the Holy Spirit guide your words. Create lists (family, friends, missionaries, etc.) if you want to have a clear method. Keep a notebook nearby when you pray to jot down unrelated thoughts - so you can remember them later and stay focused on talking with God.

There are many ways to pray. The important part is to just do it and develop as you go.

Reading God's Word

Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: Man shall not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

To get more from the Bible we must accept its _____ over the direction of our lives and relationships.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

A. _____ God's Word

Romans 10:17 Faith comes from hearing the Word of God.

B. _____ God's Word

Revelation 1:3 Happy is the one who reads this book...and obey what is written in it!

C. _____ God's Word

Acts 17:11 ...they accepted the message eagerly and studied the Scriptures every day.

D. _____ God's Word

Proverbs 7:2-3 Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep in your heart.

E. _____ God's Word

Psalms 1:23 (Those) who are always meditating on His laws...are like trees along a river bank bearing fruit...they never wither and whatever they do prospers.

F. _____ God's Word

James 1:22 Do what God's word says. Don't merely listen to it, or you will fool yourselves.

How to Make These Habits a Lifestyle

Select a specific _____ and _____

- Schedule it
- Keep it simple
- Get alone and quiet
- Reading the Bible is not like reading a novel or textbook

Follow a simple _____

- Read a verse
- Reflect on the verse
- Visualize yourself fulfilling the meaning or expectation of the verse

Choose a _____

- New Living Translation (NLT) - easy to read
- New International Version (NIV) - accurate & easy to read
- New American Standard Version (NASV) - the most accurate modern English translation

Another Key to Bible Study is knowing how to use the right tools

- Concordance *to find where words are used*
- Bible Dictionary *to find meanings*
- Bible Handbook *to understand Bible customs & history*
- Commentaries *to understand what scholars have discovered*

Great online resources with these tools available and easy to use are:

- Biblegateway.com
- Blueletterbible.org
- Youversion.com
- logos.com

Celebrate _____ **step towards God**

Galatians 6:9 Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up.

Fasting

Simply stated, Biblical fasting is refraining from _____ for a spiritual purpose.

The root meaning of the noun "fast" in the original language means voluntary abstinence from food. Fasting was practiced by Jesus (Matthew 4:2) and taught to be practiced by His followers (Matthew 6:16; Mark 2:20). Biblical fasting is not intended to be a mystical, ascetic exercise to show your own piety or improve your status with God, but is a normal and powerful practice that releases God's purposes (Acts 13:2-3) and power (Mark 9:29). We are simply practicing a biblically taught discipline. In addition, through fasting, we learn a simple dynamic pathway to spiritual breakthroughs.

Types of Fasts

Full Fast

Drink only liquids - you establish the number of days
Matthew 4:1-2; Matthew 11:18; Luke 4:1-2

The Daniel Fast

Eat no meat, sweets, or bread. Eat fruits and vegetables.
Drink water and juice.
Daniel 10:2-3

3 Day Fast

This can be a Full Fast, Daniel Fast, or give up at least one item of food.
1 Samuel 30:12; Esther 4:16; Acts 9:7-9

Partial Fast

A partial fast is from 6am to 3pm or from sun up to sun down.
Many select from three types of fasting - a Full Fast,
Daniel Fast, or give up at least one item of food during the
partial fast.
1 Samuel 14:24

Corporate Fasting

*1 Samuel 7:5-6; Ezra 8:21-23; Nehemiah 9:1-3; Joel 2:15-16;
Jonah 3:5-10; Acts 27: 33 - 37*

Relation to Prayer & Reading the Word of God

*1 Samuel 1:6-8; 17 - 18; Nehemiah 1:4; Daniel 9:3, 20;
Joel 2:12; Luke 2:37; Acts 10:30; Acts 13:2*

Note:

Do not fast food if there are any medical or dietary reasons

At Central, we encourage all of our members to take time outside of our worship services to grow individually with God through prayer, fasting, and reading God's word.

Generosity

Matthew 10:8 ...freely you have received, freely give.

2 Corinthians 8:7 Just as you excel in everything else...in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness...see that you also excel in the grace of giving.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

The Gospel is the ultimate demonstration of God's generous nature towards mankind. The Bible consistently teaches that God blesses us so that we may bless others.

Areas of Giving

1. Give of our _____

Ephesians 5:15-16 Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

2. Give of our _____

Romans 12:8 If your gift is...giving, give generously.

3. Give of our _____

1 Corinthians 12:7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

Give with the Right Attitudes

Give _____

2 Corinthians 8:3-4 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

Give_____

2 Corinthians 9:6 *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

Give_____

2 Corinthians 9:7a *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion...*

Give_____

2 Corinthians 9:7b *...for God loves a cheerful giver.*

During each worship service at Central, we take time to give the Lord's tithe and our offerings. We feel this is as much worship to the Lord as singing songs. Jesus taught generosity throughout His ministry and the scriptures demonstrate that there are benefits to the one who lives a generous lifestyle.

7 Benefits of a Generous Lifestyle

1. Generosity makes me more like God

John 3:16 *God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...*

2. Generosity draws me close to God

Matthew 6:21 *Where your treasure is, there your heart is also.*

3. Generosity is the antidote to materialism

1 Timothy 6:17-19 *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way they may take hold of the life that is truly Life!*

4. Generosity is an investment for eternity

1 Timothy 6:18-19 *...give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity.*

5. Generosity blesses me in return

Proverbs 11:25 *A generous man will prosper, he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.*

6. Generosity makes me happy

Acts 20:35 *...the Lord Jesus himself said: "there is more happiness in giving than in receiving."*

7. Generosity strengthens my faith

Proverbs 3:5, 9-10 *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing...*

Tithing

1. What is Tithing? Tithe means "a _____ part"

2. What is the difference between a Tithe & an Offering?

A Tithe is giving _____ of all income

An Offering is anything I give in _____ to my tithe.

Examples of Offerings:

Benevolence Fund - to help those in need in our church body
Missions - local and global ministries we support
Central Christian Academy - our K-8 school & 2 daycares
Building Fund - support facilities cost

3. Why should I still Tithe today?

- God commanded it

Leviticus 27:30 *A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy.*

- Jesus commended it

Matthew 23:23 *Yes you should tithe, and you shouldn't leave more important things undone either*

4. Where should I give my Tithe?

- Where I worship

Malachi 3:10 *Bring your whole tithe to My storehouse (Temple)*

Ministry
Design

Part 1: A Servant's Heart

To serve in Christ's name means to provide real service, ministry, and truly meet the needs of others. As servants we are practical, useful, relevant, timely, kind, considerate, and protective of the dignity of others. How can we develop a servant's heart and the characteristics described in 1 Timothy? Does that seem like a lot to ask?

Please know that God will not call us to do something without providing the resources for the task. By His word, His grace, and through His Spirit we have everything we need to be successful servants for the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 *It's not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. He has enabled us to be ministers of His new covenant. This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.*

1. Where do our qualifications come from? _____

2. What has God enabled us to be? _____

Romans 5:5 *...all of this happens because God has given us the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with His love.*

3. Whom had God given us? _____

4. What does the Holy Spirit do? _____

2 Peter 1:3-4 *For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that are [requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the [full, personal] knowledge of Him who called us by and to His own glory and excellence (virtue). By means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape [by flight] from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature.*

5. His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that are requisite and suited to life and godliness through what? _____

6. He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises so that through them we may become _____

Matthew 25:32-40 *The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*

7. Whenever we do something for people (serve) no matter how "unimportant" they may seem, in reality we do for whom?

Romans 13: 1 *Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*

8. What are we to do with governing authorities? _____

9. Where does all authority come from? _____

We can apply these verses to every area of our life - home, work, and church. God established a specific authority structure on earth. We are instructed to submit to that authority. This includes Pastors and ministry leaders.

If time money and resources were not an issue, what would you do with the rest of your life to make a difference with God?

The answer to the previous question will most likely answer the questions most people ask at some point in their lives, "Why am I here?"

10. God has given us a divine _____ for ministry.

1 Corinthians 12:18 - 19 *But in fact, God has arranged the parts of the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be?*

11. God has given us His _____ who manifests himself through us.

1 Corinthians 12: 7, 11 *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good...All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as he determines.*

12. God _____ us for maximum influence.

Matthew 28:18-19 *(Jesus said) All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples...*

The two results of discovering my ministry based on purpose and direction are: _____ and _____

Part II: Volunteer Expectations

1. Every volunteer must be in agreement with our 16 Fundamental Truths and its core values.
2. Potential Volunteers are to regularly attend CAG church services
 - *If you are not a member of Central Assembly but regularly attend services, we invite you to attend the CAG in 60 (our Welcome Fellowship luncheon), Next Steps, & Test Drive. We encourage completion of these three steps so you fully understand the Mission Statement & Values of Central Assembly of God.*
3. Volunteers must be willing to make a minimum one year commitment.
4. Volunteers must complete a skills assessment and be willing to have an interview with Pastor Todd Stemple.
5. Volunteers must be faithful to their assigned position.
6. Volunteers should be praying for CAG and Student Ministries. They should be in God's word.
 - *Volunteers are role models for our students. We want to know that adult leaders behave on Friday night the same way they behave on Sunday morning.*
7. Volunteers must attend trainings and meetings provided to build the "team" as well as to inform and instruct.
 - *Training and team-building will be foundational as we "build" excellence.*
8. Volunteers should give at least three days notice if they know they will be absent. We understand unexpected situations or emergencies occur.
9. Volunteers should be at their assigned "post" 25 minutes prior to the start time of an activity. (This is the crucial time when guests arrive)
10. Volunteers should give 30 days notice to resign their position. This provides us time to find an appropriate replacement.

Final Thoughts on Serving

1. Anyone who completes the Next Steps class and becomes a member may start a new ministry or new small group with the proper training and equipping from the pastoral staff.
2. Every ministry must fulfill one or more aspects of our Mission to unify family, transform and empower believers, and advance the Kingdom of God everywhere we go.
3. You're welcome to Test Drive a ministry before you commit. We usually ask for a 1 year commitment, but understand the ever-changing seasons in peoples' lives.
4. We ask that people serve in no more than 2 ministries: a **primary** ministry, where they are gifted and passionate and a **secondary** one where they are needed.
5. We expect excellence, not perfection.
6. We encourage creativity and innovation in ministry, which assumes mistakes will be made. "No Mistakes" means your not taking risks for God.
7. There are no "wrong" people - only "right" people in the wrong ministry.

My Personality

God ordained your personality - you are not a _____!

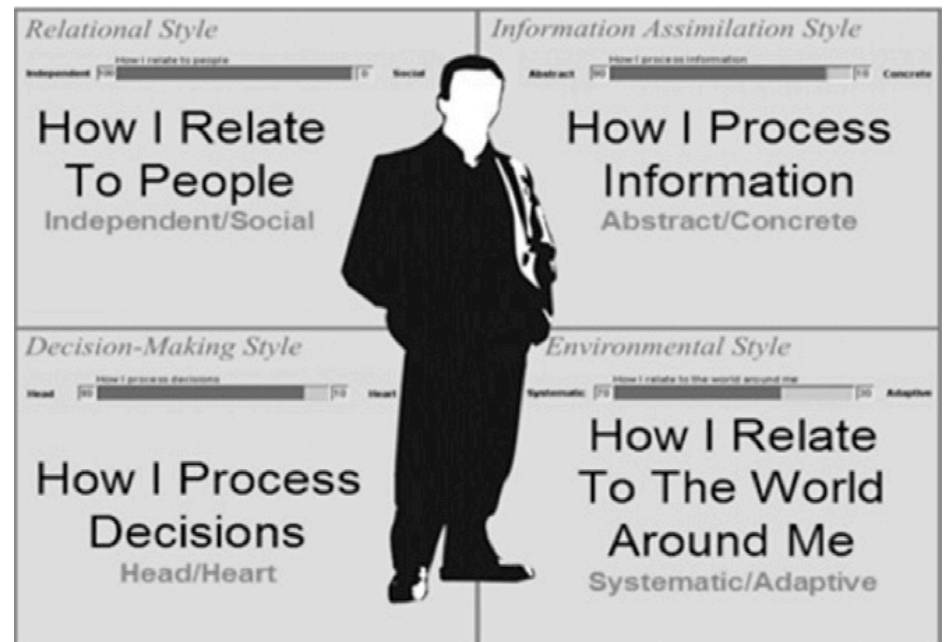
Psalms 139:16 *All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

Your personality can be identified by discovering your Ministry

_____.

Our Ministry Temperament is our unique style of service to our God and to one another. The best way for you to serve in ministry is to serve according to your divinely designed ministry temperament...to be true to the person God designed you to be. Only by understanding our God-ordained design can we hope to understand God's purpose for our lives.

We can use a simple assessment tool to help us better understand our ministry temperament, based upon four defining personality quadrants.



My Leadership Style

What does it mean to be a leader? Is everyone supposed to be a leader?

Your leadership style is the way God designed you to _____ other people. We all have an influence upon people in our lives...for good or for bad. A basic definition of leadership is *influence*.

The better we understand how God intended us to influence others, in the context of team-based ministry service, the more effective we will become.

Not all people influence others in the same way.

Our style of influence defines our functional role within a ministry team.

The Leadership Continuum

The ways in which people influence one another may be charted across a continuum ranging from highly entrepreneurial and task-oriented, to highly relational and people-oriented. It is helpful to divide this continuum into six categories of leadership types, using terms that make sense within the context of ministry service.



Grace Gifts

No one list is exhaustive, and the contents of each list depend on the specific purpose of the author.

Romans 12:6-8	1 Cor. 12:8-10	1 Cor. 12:28-30	Ephesians 4:11
Prophecy Serving Teaching Exhortation Giving Leading Showing Mercy	Word of Wisdom Word of Knowledge Faith Healings Miracles Prophecy Discerning of Spirits Tongues Interpretation of Tongues	Apostleship Prophecy Teaching Miracles Healing Helping Administration Tongues Interpretation of Tongues	Apostleship Prophecy Evangelism Pastor Teacher

Spiritual Gifts can be categorized in two forms:

_____ Gifts - these are personality dependent and may be developed with training and practice.

_____ Gifts - these gifts, such as healing, are not personality dependent ... God simply moves in the moment through us to accomplish His work.

Helpful Reminders About Spiritual Gifts

- The Bible teaches that every Christian has Spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7,11)
- Three main purposes of Spiritual gifts are:
 - Equip believers to share the Good News (Matt. 10:19,20; Luke 4:18; 1 Corinthians 2:13)
 - Prove the Gospel's message (Hebrews 2:3-4)
 - Equips believers to serve other believers (1 Cor. 12:7; 14:27)
- Spiritual gifts are sovereignly given & determined by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- Spiritual gifts are different from natural talents.

5. Believers manifest certain gifts that enable them to fulfill God's calling on their life.
6. Certain Spiritual gifts are NOT superior or inferior to others.
7. Using my gifts without love is worthless. (1 Corinthians 13)

God is the _____ & _____ of each gift, people's needs are the _____ of the gift, the gift-bearer neither owns the gift nor is the reason for the gift, he is just the _____ of the gift for the common good of the body.

Skills, Passions & People Groups

What would you do for a living without getting paid? What gives you an adrenaline rush just thinking about it?

Passion inspires:

- Passions and skills are very closely related.
- Our personality shapes our field of interests. Interests, once investigated, reveal raw skills. Skills, once practiced, may form into passions.

Questions to ask yourself:

- What conversation would keep me talking late into the night?
- At the end of my life, I would like to look back and know I have made a difference in what area?
- If you knew you could be successful in any area of ministry, and that your work would make a difference, what would you do?

Grow:
Discipleship

CAG Groups & Discipleship

Hebrews 10:25 *And let us not neglect meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.*

God never intended for us to go through life alone. Throughout the Bible, we see the importance of being in community. In fact, authentic life-change happens in the context of relationships.

The Mission of Groups at Central Assembly of God

GROUPS are how we organize any small group of people who meet regularly to:

- Connect in meaningful relationships
- Grow in their walk with Jesus
- Serve the lost & hurting in the community

The Vision of Groups at Central Assembly of God

Our vision is for each person who regularly attends Central to be involved in a CAG Group or Discipleship program. We want them to be personally transformed and in a constant state of growth with the Lord and with other believers.

Biblical Foundation for Groups & Discipleship

1. Spiritual growth happens best in the contact of _____.

Ephesians 4:16 *He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.*

- They naturally incorporate the components of the mission of Central
- Optimal environment for life transformation

2. Authentic _____ is at the heart of evangelism.

John 13:35 *Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.*

- Groups should be used to invite those in your sphere of influence
- Others, outside the church, should know there is something different about your group

3. Members of the body are to _____ for one another.

1 Corinthians 12:25, 26 *This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.*

- Best environment for accountability, a sense of belonging and care
- Ensures no one “slips through the cracks”

4. Groups are necessary for the church to effectively meet people’s _____.

- Groups meet people wherever they are in their walk with the Lord
- They provide maximum flexibility to meet all schedules & life stages

How to get involved: CAG Groups or Discipleship

1. Find a Group

You can sign up for a Group at the Info Center or by registering online. We have many Groups for you to get connected with all year long.

2. Commit for a season

We have Groups that meet during the Spring, Fall & Summer. You are welcome to join at any time.

3. Experience a life change

You'll never fully experience all that Central Assembly has to offer until you get connected with a Group.

Check out our current Groups catalog to find one that best fits your current needs.

A Discipleship group (1-3 people) is a 3-4 month commitment. The group meets weekly for the purpose of building:

- A path that leads to knowing Jesus personally
- A lifestyle of walking daily in an intimate relationship with Jesus
- A tool for making disciples and producing disciple-makers who in turn will begin to disciple others

Matthew 28:18-20 & 2 Timothy 2:2

Contact Pastor Todd to be connected with a Discipleship group.

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