



Community Groups

What is a Community Group?

We're made for community. In each one of us is a desire to love and to be loved, to have friendship and to give friendship, to have a place of safety and belonging. These are God-given desires and essential for becoming a disciple. Just as Jesus trained his disciples in the context of community—living with them, traveling with them, eating and drinking with them—we seek to build disciples through community.

The Bible tells us to meet together as believers and to encourage one another.

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

The Bible instructs us to be in relationship with other believers. If we are part of Christ's body, we will recognize our need to fit into the body of believers. The church is the place where we come together to encourage one another as members of Christ's body. Together we fulfill an important purpose on the Earth.

As members of the body of Christ, we belong to each other.

... so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5

In the Bible, the church is spoken of as a body often. This imagery points to the reality that we are all interconnected and depend on one another in life—much like a body relies on all its parts to function well. This is very different from the way most people view church—which is generally an event you attend on Sundays to be checked off the calendar. While Summit Church is a church with hundreds attending services each Sunday, church is more than a service. It's people living life together and helping one another throughout our cities to serve our towns. Each week, people meet in small communities to learn about God, pray, eat, laugh, and live. We call these Community Groups—and they're the heart of our church. And they're the way we grow smaller, grow deeper, and the only way to not get lost in the crowd.

As the church, Christians are to take the primary role in serving each other and our communities, helping each other grow to be more like Jesus, and caring for the hurting and injured members of the body, as well as sharing the good news of Jesus. It's the duty and responsibility of Christians to not rely on a handful of pastors, elders and paid staff to fulfill the church's calling to make disciples. Rather, we believe it's important for all Christians to take ownership of their role in the church's calling by participating in making disciples and growing as disciples.

What are the elements of a Community Group?

Community Groups are active groups. More than just a Bible study or a prayer group—though those are elements—members take the initiative to challenge our inclination to apathy by actively caring for one another, building friendships with one another, participating in serving the city through various charities and outreaches, and learning more about the Bible and Jesus together. Community groups should meet at the same time at least once a week for 8 weeks minimum.

Love God

Each meeting should consist of the following Love God elements:

- Bible and/or Book Study
- Prayer
- Worship

Live Community

At last one of your classes should be a fellowship event (Bowling, Games, Dinner out together) and each meeting should have at least one of the Live Community elements listed below:

- Fellowship-EAT
- Games/Fun
- Building common experiences together

Serve Others

A minimum of one meeting (out of your eight) should be a “Serve Others” event. This event needs to be focused outside of your group. (School, Homeless, Nursery for other groups).

- Outreach opportunities
- Service (together) Sunday
- Class led mission opportunities

Qualifications to lead a Community Group:

A. All teachers must be a Baptized, Bible Believing, Christian.

B. Must be an Active Summit Church Member- In addition to attending, this means you must have completed the membership class, agree with the Baptist Faith and Message, Summit Church Doctrine and agree to submit to Summit Church leadership.

C. Must be the sex of those being taught (Males will teach males, Females will teach Females, Couples are able to co-lead any Coed Groups)

D. Application and approval of the Elders.

Suggestions:

Keep it small. 12 people with Jesus were enough to change the world.

Keep it on time. Start and Finish. Preferably under 1 ½ hours

Keep it Consistent (location, time, format)

Keep focused on Jesus

Keep Prayed up.



SUMMIT CHURCH
C H A R L E S T O N

COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER APPLICATION

Biographical Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Martial Status: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Children: _____

Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ and trusted in Him for salvation?

_____ Yes _____ No

Have you been baptized after you committed your life to Christ?

_____ Yes _____ No

If not, do you want to be baptized at Summit?

Have you completed the New Members class?

_____ Yes _____ No

If so, approximate month and/or year:

Do you know your "Spiritual gifts"? Please provide below:

Is there any legal or ethical reasons would limit your serving in a ministry at Summit Church? (ie convictions, arrests, addictions.)

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please explain

Name of Proposed Class: _____

Target Audience: (Men, Women, Coed, Farmers, Volleyball Players, etc)

Location, Day and Time (if known): _____

Please describe your Community Group and format in detail.

Names of potential members:
