

The 5 Principles of Community Groups at Abilene First

Fellowship

Community Groups help people connect, which relates to membership or fellowship - moving people from coffee and cookies, to knowing true community and its benefits. I like to say, my best friends don't have to ask for my prayer requests because they know my life. True fellowship helps people discover the real you.

Discipleship

Community Groups help people grow, which relates to maturity or discipleship. Everyone is on a spiritual path which has twists and turns, forks in the road, dead ends, pot holes, etc. Small Group life helps people on their spiritual journey and how best to navigate that road. If you're on the smooth part of the road, rejoice in that. If you find you're off-roading and moving off the disciplines, small group life helps you get back.

Service

Community Groups help people discover their spiritual gifts, which relates to ministry or serving. Not only do you want each person in your Small Group to discover his/her SHAPE as he/she begins ministering in the church. But as a group, you want to serve your church and the people in your church. Every person has a ministry to the church and a mission to the world

Evangelism

Community Groups help people learn to share, which relates to missions or evangelism. What is your group's mission to the world? While we want groups to focus cross-culturally; we don't want them to forget the mission field they live in—their neighborhood! Small Groups are a great way to get the attendees of the group praying for their neighbors and even planning activities designed for fellowship with those neighbors.

Worship

Community Groups help people to surrender their lives, which is worship (more than music and communion in a group). This purpose helps people to live out being a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1) fully surrendered to Christ. Group life helps you be transparent; receiving the support you need to succeed in your Christian walk. So, we teach that worship is praise, but it is also action.