

Small Group Covenant²

This is signed at the beginning of each 10-week session by all groups. If your group is continuing from a previous session, simply review the points.

Our Basic Purpose

To promote development of significant Christian relationships – focused around God's Word.

Sharing

Each week, we will share what is happening in our lives. It is hoped that as a group grows, this time will become more informal and comfortable.

Study

Each week, we will study a portion of God's Word that relates the sermon from the previous Sunday. Our goal is application so we may live out our Christian faith in our everyday experiences and relationships.

Support

Each week, we will learn how to take care of one another. The form of this care may take many forms from prayer, listening, meeting needs, encouraging, or challenging one another, as needed.

Five Marks of a Healthy Group

For our Group to be healthy, we need to

- Focus on spiritual growth as a top priority (Romans 8:29)
- Accept one another in love just as Christ accepted us (Romans 15:7)
- Take care of one another in love without crossing over the line into parenting or taking inappropriate responsibility for solving the problems of others (John 13:34)
- Treat one another with respect in both speech and action (Ephesians 4:25-5:2)
- Keep our commitments to the group – including attending regularly, doing the homework, and keeping confidences whenever requested (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b)

Guidelines and Covenant

Dates

We will meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks.

Time

We will arrive at _____. We will begin the meeting at _____ time.

² Adapted from *Sticky Church* by Larry Osborne.

Children

Unless otherwise determined – group members are responsible for arranging their own childcare.

Study

Each week, we will study the same topic(s) covered in the previous Sunday's sermon.

Prayer

Our group will be praying each week for one another and for specific requests.

Homework and Attendance

Joining a small group requires the commitment to attend each week. There will be occasions where sickness, vacations, work conflicts and special events occur, but the commitment is to be at the group as a rule, not the exception. This commitment is key to a healthy group.

The homework may take anywhere from 10-30 minutes to complete each week. It is crucial that adequate time be taken to prepare.

If it is apparent within the first three weeks of meeting that an individual/couple is not connecting well – there is a “no questions asked” policy regarding participation. A member may pull away from the new group and try a different group or take a break. After week four, it is assumed that all members will stay with the group until the final session.

Refreshments***Social(s)******Service Project(s)***