

GROUP COVENANT

The purpose of this Soul Care Group is to grow disciples who in turn will seek to disciple others. Our goal is to develop a closer relationship with Jesus and to become more like him as we rely on the Bible and the Holy Spirit for guidance and direction. This will involve looking to God for spiritual, emotional, relational, and physical wholeness. To accomplish this, we agree to the following things:

1. Because we will be sharing deeply personal information, we agree to maintain strict levels of confidentiality. No information disclosed in this group will be shared with anyone else without the permission of the person who disclosed it, except as required by law. Any violation of this agreement may involve removal from this group.
2. We agree to meet on _____ of each week (or as otherwise agreed upon by the group). Meetings will begin at _____ and end at _____. We will make every effort to be on time and to come each week unless illness or special circumstances prohibit. We will let the host leader know as soon as possible if we will be unable to attend.
3. Recognizing the importance of oversight and accountability in the body of Christ, we will affiliate with Trinity Baptist Church in Fairfield, CT. We will support Trinity Baptist Church with our time, talents, and financial resources as the Lord directs and allows. We will look to Trinity Baptist Church for financial resources when necessary and will submit ourselves to the pastoral leadership of the Board of Elders.
4. We understand that once the group begins to grow to fifteen or more people, a new Soul Care Group will be formed from a significant portion the original group. Members will be asked to seek God's direction regarding which group they will be in. The leadership team members of the new group must be active members of Trinity Baptist Church and approved by the Board of Elders.
5. Realizing the importance of unity and being part of the larger body of Christ, we will work together with other Soul Care Groups that are affiliated with Trinity Baptist Church as opportunities arise and the Lord directs.
6. Understanding that the basic purpose of this group is discipleship, we will endeavor to engage in daily activities that will enable us to become more like Christ. This will include regular times of prayer, Bible study, meditation, and seeking to be aware of the presence of God in our lives. It will also include seeking to live a holy life, exercising the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and endeavoring to live in the joy and power of the Holy Spirit. By God's grace, we will strive to serve others whenever we can, share our faith with others as God leads, and joyfully seek to show forth the presence of God in all that we are, do, and say.

7. Realizing that we are not perfect, nor are our fellow group members, we will extend grace to those who are struggling with areas of sin or moral weakness. We will be open to the loving correction or exhortation of fellow group members who are attempting to help us in our desire to become more like Jesus.
8. We will engage in regular (at least every 2 months) evaluations of our Soul Care Group in terms of our own participation and that of fellow members. We will endeavor to be honest and open with one another and to speak the truth in love. The purpose of the evaluation will be to see if we are fulfilling our stated purpose, determine what we are doing right, and examine what we may need to do to improve or get back on track.
9. If for some reason we decide to leave this group, we will meet with the group to explain our reasons for leaving—preferably at one of the regular evaluation meetings. If we do leave, we understand that we are still bound by the confidentiality rules we agreed to when we joined.
10. Although each Small Care Group will have a designated team of at least 2 members, we agree that the responsibility for the ongoing functioning of the group will be shared by everyone. We agree to accept responsibility for our part in the functioning of the group.