

Why Community Groups at Redeemer Waco?

Who are the 3, 5, or 10 people in your life that know what's going on in your world? Who are the 3, 5, or 10 people that are they to celebrate the joys of life with you, support you when you have a need, and serve you when suffering strikes? Who would notice if you disappeared from church? You and I need those kinds of relationships in our lives. That is why we do Community Groups at Redeemer.

The Church is a body of people who are together united to Jesus Christ through faith alone, by grace alone (1 Cor. 12:12). A local church is a local group of believers who gather together as a community to worship, who are called to love each other, speak the truth to each other, bear one another's burdens, and live at peace with one another. A local church is not just a church's pastors, deacons, or paid staff but the whole body of believers equally.

So, how do look up one day and have 3, 5, or 10 people that know you and walk through life with you? How do you look up one day and have a handful of people in your life actively loving one another, speaking the truth to one another, bearing one another's burdens, and serving one another? By meeting regularly with a small group of people to build friendships.

We all know you can love someone in the church from afar, perhaps by giving money to a fund to help with the needs of others in the church. But you do not have to know anyone or love anyone to do that. You could even call the church office in hopes that someone has the time and ability to support you in the way you need. But you don't have to know anyone or love anyone to do that. We are made for something so much better, intentional relationships with one another where we are known, loved, and supported day in and day out. There is no shortcut to those kinds of relationships. They are built overtime as a smaller group of people get to know one another and build friendships.

Community Groups are simple but vital at Redeemer. They are small groups of people, maybe 5-15 people, who get together every 1-2 weeks to connect, share a meal, talk about the previous sermon, and/or just have a good time. Community Groups are not a way but the way for you to get connected at Redeemer and know that you have 3, 5, or 10 people in your life who will celebrate your birthday when it rolls around, pray for you before the big interview, bring you a meal when you have a newborn, and never leave your side when suffering hits.

The Structure of a Community Group

Community Groups are intended to be natural but like anything involve some structure. A Community Group has a leader or host who helps keep everything organized. Like every great gathering, when a Community Group meets there is often food involved, whether a meal or snacks. There is usually a time to all come together to talk about the sermon from Sunday or another passage of the Bible. This time is also used to share about what may be going on in



your world and life. What's going on? What's great? What hurts? How can those to your left and right serve, pray for, and love you?

Community Groups also spend time serving the community. How can you and your 6 friends in your small group live on mission together? Perhaps at Christmas time you could pack gifts for those in need. Perhaps you could invite the neighborhood to church on Sunday. Whatever it might be, Community Groups are not only about building friendships within the church but outside the church too.

The Leadership and Size of a Community Group

Community Groups all have a leader/host. Community Group leaders are also considered "hosts" because they are simply trying to organize and facilitate a group but everyone pitches in. Community Group leaders commit to lead a group for at least 2 years.

Community Groups are a max size of 20 people. The purpose of keeping groups under 20 people is simply to keep groups a size where everyone can build relationships with one another. As you know, when you're in a larger crowd of people it is easy to not connect well with anyone.

What Happens When a Group Is Too Big?

We love hearing the bad news that a group is too big! When a group is just too big to accomplish the goal of a Community Group, it can simply turn into two groups. Leaders will recommend who they think could help lead/host the new group as the one group turns into 2 groups, with the new leaders going through the brief application process.

How Do You Become a Community Group Leader?

Want to start a group? If you have a heart to start or lead a Community Group, email Collin Coats at collin@redeemerwaco.org to start the brief application process!

