

# The Basics of Starting a Group

Are you interested in leading a small group? Here's everything you need to help you make your decision (well...almost everything).



## TYPES OF GROUPS

Currently, we have three "types" of groups...each with a bit of a different focus:



**GROW** – these are the "typical" groups...meeting together, studying a subject, seeking to apply it to our lives, and praying together.



**SUPPORT** – these are groups focused on helping individuals through specific life circumstances or through recovery (utilizing Celebrate Recovery's "Step Studies").



**ACTIVITY** – these groups are centered around the group participating in a common activity. Generally, these groups are less focused on study and more on getting to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere.

## FAQs

### **Will I have any support or help as I begin my group?**

Absolutely! Our group leadership team is available throughout the week at the church office. Additionally, each group leader is assigned a "community leader" to provide support and care.

### **Do I have to host the group at my house?**

We have several groups that have separate leaders and hosts. We find that is a great way to partner together with others. Leading AND hosting can be overwhelming! Also, we have several groups that use the church facilities for their groups to meet in (just be sure to schedule it through our office).

### **I have specific people in mind to be in my group...can I "recruit" them to join my group?**

Yes. We actually believe that group leaders are the best recruiters for their groups. In fact, when a group leader specifically approaches others and asks them to join their group, it seems to fill up much faster.

### **I want to lead a GROW group but I have no idea what to lead. Do you have suggestions?**

We have a curriculum library, but we encourage many of our groups to lead sermon reflection groups. "Sermon Remix guides" are prepared weekly for the sermon reflection groups.

### **What if I have a curriculum that isn't on the list?**

We request all leaders to allow us to look at the curriculum they are teaching so that we can be sure the beliefs align with our theology.

### **Do I have to purchase the curriculum?**

Only if you want to. We have a budget to purchase curriculum for groups. Please contact Pastor Sherry at the admin. building at (815) 434-3794 or by e-mail, [sherry@crossbridge.church](mailto:sherry@crossbridge.church), for more information.

### **What about kids? Are they included in groups or not?**

Each group answers this question a little differently. Some groups have kids as a part of their group...running around, playing, and laughing. Other groups hire a sitter to watch the kids in a different part of the house. Others ask that kids not come at all. It's up to you!

### **What if my group really connects? Can we keep meeting?**

Of course we have some groups that meet year round. We love the community that forms when groups have longevity.

**Does my group have to meet weekly?**

Ideally, we would like every group to meet weekly. However, we recognize that sometimes that just isn't possible. It's better to meet every other week than not at all!

**Other questions?**

You can contact the group leadership team by e-mail or in the admin. building, (815) 434-3794. The group leadership team includes Pastor Sherry, sherry@crossbridge.church, Sally Fiesel, sally@crossbridge.church and Alex Cross, alex@crossbridge.church.