

## **2:42 Small Groups**

Can you give me some more details on the 2:42 small groups?

### **What types of groups can there be?**

Groups can be different and individuals can start a group that they feel like God is leading them to start. A couple with young children might want to start a group for other families with young children. Someone else might want to start a group for anyone at any stage of life, and they meet weekly for a potluck dinner and then Bible study. You might feel led to start a men's group or a women's group. We will let God direct us in this as He puts in individuals' hearts the desire to start a group.

### **Where will groups meet?**

Outside the church building. In homes, at a coffee shop, maybe at the park while your kids play. It's up to the group leader and each group.

### **When will groups meet?**

This is up to the group leader for each group, though some group leaders might discuss this with the members of their group to set a day and time each week. The meeting days and times will not be the same for each group.

### **How many people will be in each small group?**

We expect groups might include 4 – 16 adults, though some might grow larger. Individuals who want to start a small group can specify how many people they would like in the small group they start.

### **How do people join groups?**

We will have a sign-up period at different times of the year when individuals can sign up to start new groups and then people can sign up to join a group. First, we take sign-ups for group leaders and hosts, and then will publish information about the different groups for individuals to sign up for. Right now we envision that a kick off or sign up period will be held each fall and spring semester (August – October; January/February) for individuals to sign up and join a group. Individuals starting a group are encouraged to invite others to their group, and we encourage group leaders to invite others besides their close friends.

### **What will be the focus or primary activity of each group?**

Different people are at different points in their walk with Christ and are engaged at different levels with the local church. Some group leaders might plan to start a Bible study, and this will be the primary focus of their time together. Other group leaders might plan to start a group that spends more time getting to know one another by sharing a meal while also engaging in a Christ- or Bible- centered discussion. Some groups might include young families, and let's face it, some of your time will be spent wrestling the kids and just having a good time in between Bible studies or meaningful conversations.

Regardless of the focus or activity, small groups are a place for fellowship, growing your faith and knowledge of Christ, and growing God's kingdom.

**What curriculum or study will groups follow?**

This will also depend on the type, focus, and activity of each group, and the group leader will ultimately decide this. Some groups might study Scripture, working through particular books of the Bible. The church can recommend a couple Bible studies and resources for 'conversation starters' to groups and group leaders. Small groups should help people reach the next step in their spiritual growth, and the study or conversations should assist in this objective as appropriate for the members of the group.

**How often and for how long will groups meet?**

We would like for groups to meet at least 10-12 times each semester (fall and spring). Ideally groups will meet once a week, though it might not be possible for groups to meet some weeks. We plan to launch new sessions of 2:42 small groups periodically, maybe each semester or once a year, at which time individuals can form new groups or join different groups. However, some groups might want to stay together for longer and continue the work that the Lord has begun in their group. That is ok and groups are not required to stop meeting or 'split' at the end of a semester.

**Will childcare or a kid's ministry be provided during the meeting times?**

Since different groups are expected to meet at different times, we currently won't offer childcare or a kid's ministry specifically for 2:42 small groups and their meeting times.

**What is the role of the small group leader?**

The 2:42 small group leader is the person who started the group, establishing the type and focus of the group. Their primary responsibility is to shepherd the group's activities and discussions to ensure there are opportunities for building relationships and spiritual growth. Depending on the type and focus of the group, the group leader's role might not necessarily be a teacher role or require the preparation of a Bible study each week. The group leader should be comfortable leading discussions and have a sound relationship with Jesus Christ

**Is there anything else important to know?**

Yes. Remember, we want this to be done according to God's will...God's way.