

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT ARE SMALL GROUPS?

We believe life change happens in the context of relationships. At Coastline, we encourage everyone to participate in a weekly Small Group.

**Sermon Based Small Groups** are a home fellowship made up of approx. 8-15 people who meet weekly to share, study and support one another. The group will discuss the weekly small group questions that are provided with the message notes from the weekend services. Average meetings last for an hour and half in homes, but locations can vary and are listed on the small group directory.

**Special Interest Small Groups** meet weekly at various locations and meet with different purposes. Some to have fun around a hobby and share the word of God together, others study a book or learn a how to improve a certain aspect of their life. Topics and Timing of these groups are listed on the small group directory

## HOW LONG DO THEY LAST?

There are three official semesters. Spring: February – April. Summer: June – July, and Fall: September – November. Currently the Summer Semester is in session, which runs from June 17<sup>th</sup> – July 28<sup>th</sup>. Many of our groups will continue to meet through the breaks of each semester and determined by the leader and agreed upon by the participants.

## WHAT WILL WE STUDY?

Sermon Based small groups are based on the previous weekend's message. Each week the participants are to have experienced the weekend message either by attending Coastline Church or watching the message on-line.

Message notes and Small Group questions are provided each week in each of the 5 services or can be printed on-line. We ask that each person come prepared to discuss their answers based upon completion of the questions. Special Interest Small Group study or participate in a wide range of topics or activities and can be discussed with those individual leaders.

## WHAT ARE THE COMMITMENTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS?

When you join a Small Group, you are promising to attend and be prepared each week. It's the commitment that makes the Small Groups work. We realize it's a big commitment, but it only lasts for the designated time of the semester. At the end of each semester, you have the choice of recommitting for another semester, trying a new group, or taking a break from Small Groups all together.

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF A LEADER?

Each of our leaders are facilitators of the questions and not expected to be a biblical scholar. Leaders must provide a safe and secure place to meet that is free of distractions for the optimum conversation. Each leader must be member of Coastline, Agree to the leadership honor code and the small group leadership guidelines policy and attend a 1 hour “new leader” training class. These materials are provided to potential leaders after your application for a group has been received.

## HOW DO I CHOOSE AND REGISTER FOR A GROUP?

When selecting a group, we recommend that you choose a group based on common stage-in-life and interests and not on location. For a group directory and sign-up please visit [coastlinechurch.org/connect/small-groups](https://coastlinechurch.org/connect/small-groups). After sign-up, an email is sent to the potential leaders email and communication will begin regarding the group and any questions you might have. You can choose to join the group then, experience a group first hand, or request information from another group by following the same process.

If you have any questions (especially if you are new to Coastline) please don't hesitate to call Coastline Church, connect with us each weekend at the info center or simply email us at [groups@coastlinechurch.org](mailto:groups@coastlinechurch.org) We would be honored to assist you.

## WHAT ABOUT CHILDCARE?

Small Groups are for adults only (Exceptions can be made for nursing newborns up to six months). We leave it up to each family to work out their childcare. Sometimes it works best for each group to hire a childcare worker and arrange a home and area that can accommodate the children. Coastline Church provides childcare for groups that meet on Campus on Tuesday AM during the Spring and Fall Semesters.

## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT?

At Coastline, we are dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God's love in tangible ways through our service to the community. Near the end of each semester, we ask that your group choose an outreach opportunity from the list provided on our small group home page or decide on something different that the group is passionate about and simply go and serve the community.