

Community Group Covenant

Leaders Ph.# _____

Hosts Ph.# _____

Small groups thrive on participation! The purpose of this covenant is to help clarify our group's goals, expectations, and commitments.

COMMUNITY GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

Community Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through authentic Christian relationships and study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24, 25). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

SOCIALIZING

We place a high value on laughter. Each week, we will take time to relate informally and get to know each other better. This will be done through sharing a meal, a snack or using an ice-breaker to generate discussion.

SHARING

Each week we will take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." After the first few weeks it will become less structured and more personal as we grow deeper with one another.

STUDYING

Each week we will study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to interact interpersonally on the topic and how we can practically follow Christ, not to answer all the questions.

SUPPORTING

Each week we will learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and meeting real needs (meal trains, intervention in crisis, a hospital visit).

SERVING

Spiritual Growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. Our goal is to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the semester, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

For our group to be healthy, we need to...

1. Make spiritual growth our number one priority (Romans 8:29).

> Tangents – they are okay sometimes, but we need to keep spiritual growth our focus. To meet this goal, we will use our time wisely.

2. Accept one another (Romans 15:7).

> We will have different preferences/personalities and we will accept these differences in one another. In essential beliefs we have unity, non-essential beliefs we have liberty. ([more on this idea](#))

3. Take care of one another (John 13:34).

> When crisis happens, we are there to help with support, prayer, encouragement, listening, meals etc.

4. Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).

> If someone is talking everyone listens. Don't have side conversations.

> Listen, don't advise. (Advice is only given when asked for) We are not here to judge or fix – unless someone asks.

> Be careful to include everyone in the discussion and not dominate with lengthy thoughts/opinions.

> Be careful of gossip, including gossip prayers.

> Always build each other up, not tear each other down.

> Keep our discussions confidential to the group. Of course, we never promise confidentiality if something shared would be harmful to yourself or someone else.

5. Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2,4b).

> Please let us know if you can't make it to group so we know what's going on and how to pray for you.

GUIDELINES & COVENANT

1. Dates – We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks. Our final meeting of this quarter will be on _____.

2. Time – We'll arrive at _____. We will strive to be on time and honor one another by meeting no longer than 90 minutes in total.

3. Children – (insert your group's plan for childcare)

4. Study – Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous Sunday’s sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

5. Prayer – We will commit to spend time in prayer with and for one another.

6. Homework & Attendance – Joining a Community Group requires a commitment to attend each week and listen to the weekly sermon. Everyone’s presence is necessary for the group to function best. Barring occasional circumstances, we agree to make attendance a priority. If we cannot come to a meeting, we will call _____.

7. Desserts/Snacks (insert your group’s plan for food)

8. Social & Service Project(s) (insert your group’s plan for social and service projects)

9. Other

We agree together in Christ to honor this covenant.

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