

COMMUNITY GROUPS

A Typical Gathering Format

1. **Connect** – Groups will gather together via Zoom or in someone’s home during the course of a message series. Message series last about 4–6 weeks. It is up to your group to decide how often and when to meet. We recommend at least twice a month for about an hour to an hour and a half during the week. Be consistent to start and end on time.

Each week should be a reminder of the why they are meeting: Mission declaration: Love God –as we go deeper into the weekly message; Love People—it will be a place to care for others and be cared for; and Build Disciples: a place to impact our community and the world.

Share your personal wins for the week and some of your challenges too. This should be a safe place to be vulnerable. Remind your group the significance of confidentiality — if something very serious comes up and you need further assistance, please contact Bill, Sharon, or Eddie immediately so they can determine the type of intervention needed (i.e. connect with a Stephen’s Minister, contact other emergency services).

A video clip will be sent out to leaders and hosts Sunday night via email from Hayley. This clip will include a snippet from the message given over the weekend and some question question prompts – no more than 5–7 minutes. Watch the video together and have a discussion about it.

Remember: Community Groups are about building relationships and discipleship. For our brave, extroverted leaders and hosts — embrace awkward silence to give some the opportunity to share. You don’t have to know all the answers either — there’s power in saying, “I don’t know, but I can find someone who does know!”

2. **Pray** – Spend time in prayer. You can pray for each other, the Church, your neighbors, etc. Let the Holy Spirit guide you.
3. **Serve** – Group Leaders within their groups will find ways how to serve their communities: for e.g. helping a neighbor in need; or a family someone in the group may know has a need; serving or helping at a local Food Pantry; even having prayer walks within your communities—the Lord will reveal ways how you can serve.
4. **Give** – In junction with serving, discipleship trajectory comes from a place of consistent giving. We give monetarily to those in need and we give a tithe to the church.
5. **Share** – Group leaders must be willing to welcome newcomers and reach out when they inquire. Also be clear to your group that they are free to explore other groups when the next message series comes along. The goal is to grow the Community Groups — invite others to your group and encourage your group participants to go and start their own groups when ready!
** We are not doing this by ourselves. God is with us! if you desire, you can start to pray for that person, who can come alongside with you as a Co-Leader.

Group Leaders Quarterly Meeting following sermon series. Developing new leaders and new group members regularly. Collect Wins & Testimonies of what the Lord is doing in the Community Groups.

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love God - love people - build disciples

