



Small Group Ministry – Covenant

This covenant is reviewed and signed at the beginning of each quarter by all groups. Groups that are continuing still review the covenant during the first meeting of each quarter.

Session Dates _____ to _____

Leader(s) _____ Phone # _____ Email _____

Host(s) _____ Phone # _____ Email _____

This covenant will help us discuss and clarify our goals, expectations, and commitments as a group. Since healthy groups thrive on trust and participation, a clear covenant is an important starting point toward a successful group experience.

Small Groups: Our Basic Purpose

Small groups exist to promote the development of significant Christian relationships centered around the study of God’s word (see Hebrews 10:24-25; Romans 8:29)

Sharing

Each week, we will take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include some planned “sharing questions.” After the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as our group feels safer and more comfortable.

Study

Each week we’ll study a portion of God’s Word that relates to the previous Sunday’s sermon. Our goal is to learn how to apply and live out our Christianity in our day-to-day experiences and relationships.

Support

Each week, we’ll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (see John 15:9-13). This care will take many forms, such as praying, listening, meeting needs, and encouraging and even challenging one another as needed.

Five Marks of a Healthy Group

For our group to be healthy we need to:

1. Focus on spiritual growth as a top priority. (Romans 8:29)
2. Accept one another in love just as Christ has accepted us. (Romans 15:7)
3. Take care of one another in love without crossing over the line into parenting or taking inappropriate responsibility for solving the problems of others. (John 13:34)
4. Treat one another with respect in both speech and action. (Ephesians 4:25-5:2)
5. Keep our commitments to the group—including attending regularly, doing the discussion material, and keeping confidences whenever requested. (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b)

Guidelines and Covenant

1. **Dates** We'll meet on _____ for _____ weeks.
Our final meeting of the session will be on _____.
2. **Time** We'll arrive between _____ and _____
and begin the meeting at _____ and end the meeting at _____.
3. **Children** Groups members are responsible to arrange childcare for their children. Nursing newborns are welcome.
4. **Study** Each week, we'll study the same topic(s) covered in the previous Sunday's sermon.
5. **Prayer** Our group will be praying each week for one another and other specific requests.
6. **Discussion Material and Attendance**
Joining a small group requires a commitment to *attend each week and to do the discussion material ahead of time*. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, etc. *This commitment is key to a healthy group*. It is an expectation that when your spouse cannot come that you still attend.

If we cannot come to a meeting, we will _____.

7. Refreshments

BETWEEN STUDY SESSIONS:

8. **Social(s)**
9. **Service Project(s)**

We agree together in Christ to honor this covenant.

(To be decided on and signed by each group member on or before the third week.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____