

GGC SMALL GROUPS

It is exciting to see what God is doing with small groups in our church! The heart in these groups is for each group to have the space and flexibility it needs for the Holy Spirit to mold each group uniquely as He would lead, while at the same time being proactive to make sure groups have the support they need to be successful and to foster a sense of unity and connectedness to what is happening with the other groups and on Sunday mornings. With that in mind, here are a few things for you to pray about and consider you consider starting a GGC small group:

1. How often would you like your group to meet? (Most current groups are meet one evening every other week. That seems like a good place to start, but it is up to you.)
2. Do you plan to eat a meal together? If so, how often?
3. How do you plan to do worship? If you don't have someone who can play an instrument, that is OK! You could always play some music and worship together, or do acapella, etc.
4. How do you plan to communicate with one another?
5. Will you take communion during your time together? This can be a powerful time together!
6. What is your plan for children?
7. Small groups are a great context to step out in the gifts of the Spirit. You might consider setting apart some time at some of your meetings to pray over and minister to one another.
8. Our church has a portable baptismal. If you ever have someone in your small group who would like to be baptized in your small group setting, you can feel free to use the baptismal.
9. When you start to reach your maximum capacity and numbers as a group, then it may be time to consider becoming two groups. (This can sometimes happen more quickly than you might expect at times, as people are being impacted and as word about your group gets out. So be ready.)
10. If you would ever like me (Pastor Tim) to come and spend some time with your group, please don't hesitate to ask and I can check my schedule and see if I can possibly make it happen! I'm here to serve and support however I can.
11. This year most groups will be studying the book of Matthew together. It is up to each group to decide how much content they want to try to work through and discuss at a particular meeting. Here are some simple and easily memorable yet strategic questions that can guide you and help keep moving discussion along, although other interesting questions that come forth spontaneously in the course of discussion might also be worth pursuing. Also, choosing someone to help facilitate discussion—someone who is good at helping to keep discussions from being dominated by the same people, and who can help bring things back to an atmosphere of unity after the sharing of conflicting opinions—can go a long way in making discussions as fruitful and engaging. Notice that the final question below is directed outward and is meant to help participants move from receiving to giving, to help people cultivate the habit of being faithful stewards of those truths with which they have been entrusted.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What does it say? (Summarize in your own words.)
- 2) What does it say about God? (Jesus? Holy Spirit? His character? Nature? etc.)
- 3) What does it say about people? (e.g., human nature, reaction to the Truth, etc.)
- 4) What is it saying to me personally? (How do I apply this? Change in behavior? Understanding? Etc.)
- 5) What do I need to share? (Do I know someone who needs to hear this passage?)

Thanks everyone! Please don't hesitate to reach out for any support you may need!