



# Community Groups

## Our Most Frequently Asked Questions

### **How Important Are Community Groups?**

We consider Community Groups to be the hub of our ministry. They are the place where the real ministry of the church takes place as we encourage, support, and challenge one another. God doesn't want any of us to be left to walk alone – we need each other. We want to be a church, not a crowd!

### **What Is a Community Group?**

A Community Group is made up of 10-16 people who meet weekly to study, to share, and to support one another in their Christian lives. Each group is led by a trained leader. A typical meeting lasts about an hour and a half, followed by light refreshments.

### **How Long Does A Community Group Last?**

Basically, we've broken the year into 4 quarters or sessions. Each session lasts approximately 10 weeks. At the end of each session, you have the choice of staying in the same group, trying a new group, or even taking a break. Most groups stay together throughout the entire year. However, groups do not meet mid-June through August, though some continue to meet informally or socially through the summer.

### **Which Community Group Should I Join?**

We suggest you join a group based on your "station in life" rather than on geography or the most convenient night of the week. We've found that a group works best when you share common interests, backgrounds, marital status or similar aged children. It might take two or three groups before you find the perfect fit. But don't worry, you'll find it!

### **What Is The Required Commitment?**

Joining a Community Group requires a 10 week commitment to attend the weekly meetings and to do the homework ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, and other special events...but not much more! We have found that this commitment is the key to strong relationships and healthy groups.

### **What About Childcare?**

We leave it up to each group & family to work out its own childcare. Sometimes it works best for families to share a sitter or to swap childcare with another family whose group meets on a different evening or time. Some groups have the children gather with them for prayer before they begin their discussion and send the children off to play in a different area of the home. What a great example it sets for your kids to know their parents are a part of a community that values spiritual growth.

### **What Will We Study?**

The studies are based on the previous weekend's sermon. Our Community Groups are built upon what we call a "Lecture-Lab" model. If you imagine the weekend sermon as a lecture on Christian living, then the group meeting is a lab where you get to roll up your sleeves and discuss how the sermon works out in real life. Each week there will be a series of Bible passages and questions to study and complete before your meeting. The homework is included on the back of the sermon note sheet found in your worship folder. It will usually take 20 to 30 minutes to complete the homework.

### **How Do I Sign Up?**

Church wide sign-ups begin 4 weeks before the start of each new session (in September, January, and March). You can sign up before or after any weekend worship service or by calling the church office. We will be happy to help you find just the right group for you. Those who are new to the church (start attending in the middle of a session) can sign up and join any group that has openings without waiting for the start of a new session.

### **When and Where Do These Groups Meet?**

Our Community Groups meet on various days and nights of the week in homes throughout the community. A few of them actually meet at the church.