

SMALL GROUPS INFORMATION



It is our goal to have every member of our church involved in either a Small Group or another similar group experience. While most groups are sermon-based, some are special interest groups focusing on topics such as parenting, marriage recovery and Christian basics for new believers.

We believe spiritual growth flows out of two basic commitments:

- A commitment to God and the Bible.
- A commitment to significant Christian relationships.

Small Groups help develop these significant relationships!

HOW DO SMALL GROUPS WORK?

These Bible study groups require a ten-week commitment, and are comprised of 10-16 people. They meet weekly to share, to study God's Word and to support one another spiritually. The groups meet for three 10-week sessions from late September through June, taking a break during the summer months.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Small Group?

A Small Group is a home fellowship made up of 10-16 people who meet weekly to share, study and support one another. A trained leader and host lead each group. An average meeting lasts for an hour and a half, followed by light refreshments.

How Important Are Small Groups?

Here at Northeast Christian Church, we desire for Small Groups to be the hub of our ministry. They're the place where the real ministry of the church should take place as we study God's Word, while supporting and sharing our lives with one another. We believe that meeting together on a regular basis is time well spent. Our benchmark for success is to have at least 80% of our adults involved on a weekly basis.

When and Where Do They Meet?

Small Groups meet on various nights of the week in homes throughout the Grand Valley. Most evening groups meet between 5:30-9 pm. The daytime groups meeting times will vary.

How Long Do They Last?

Each Small Group session lasts 10 weeks. We have Fall, Winter & Spring sessions. At the end of each session, you will 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. Small Groups do not meet mid-June through August.

What is the Required Commitment?

Joining a Small Group requires a 10 week commitment to attend weekly meetings and do the homework ahead of time. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts and other special events, but not much more. This commitment is the key to a strong Small Group. You have the first three weeks to attend the group to make sure it's a good fit for you.

What Will We Study?

Most of the studies are based on the previous weekend's message. These "sermon-based" Small Groups are built on what we call a "Lecture-Lab" model. Imagine the weekend message as a lecture on Christian living, and the Small Group as a lab where you get to roll up your sleeves and discuss how the weekend's message works in real life. Each week there will be a series of Bible passages and questions to study before the meeting. It will usually take 20 to 40 minutes per week to complete the homework.

What Does It Cost?

Few things in life are free and Small Groups are no exception! The cost of Small Groups is the cost of commitment. During the first meeting, each group will complete a "covenant" together. This simple form helps each group discuss their priorities and commitment. Part of that commitment is the promise to attend each week and to complete the homework as well as to attend the quarterly social and do one service project for the year. You have the first three weeks to decide if your group is a good fit for you.

When you join a Small Group, you're promising to attend and be prepared each week. It's this commitment that makes Small Groups work. We realize it's a big commitment, but it only lasts for 10 weeks. At the end of each quarter, you have the choice of recommitting for another quarter, trying a new group, or taking a break from Small Groups altogether.

What About Child Care?

Small Groups are for adults only. (Exceptions can be made for nursing newborns, up to six months.) We leave it up to each family to work out their own child care. Sometimes it works best for families to share a sitter or to swap child care with another family whose Small Group meets on a different evening.

How Do I Choose A Group?

When selecting a group, we strongly recommend you choose a group based on its leader-host team and Station-in-Life (common stage in life), rather than its location. We believe that groups do best when members share a common Station-in-Life and other interests with their leaders, hosts, and other group members. In the end, you'll find it's worth the drive!

If you have any questions (especially if you are new to Northeast Christian Church), please don't hesitate to call the church, and we will gladly assist you. Keep in mind that it might take two or three groups before you find the perfect fit, but don't worry, you'll find it!

How Do I Sign Up For A Small Group?

Before each Small Group quarter begins there are three ways to sign up for a group—online, at our weekend services, or by calling the church office. During the weekend services, Small Group leaders are available at the sign-up booths to help you choose a group and answer any questions. There are three sign-up weekends before the beginning of our Fall Quarter in September, and two sign-up weekends before our Winter Quarter in January and our Spring Quarter in April.

We also offer "Intro Small Groups" which run for three weeks and begin in August, November and February. These groups are designed for people new to Small Groups who would like to find out how they work and what they are all about. We also offer "Summer Connections Groups" for three weeks in July.

You can call the office at any time for help finding and signing up for a group, or answer any questions at (970) 243-6672.