

**Community Group Study Guide
2nd Semester Kick-Off, January 26, 2020**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Would you rather . . .

. . . win the lottery or live twice as long? . . . be reborn a 100 years in the past or in the future? . . . work in a group or work alone?

2. In 2020 which do you hope to experience the most and why?

- Adventure
- Relaxation
- Challenge
- Fun
- Something else (_____)

3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

One of the key reasons we meet in Community Groups every week is to gain the encouragement and support we each need to keep our focus on Jesus. Before you go over the Covenant in your group, take a moment to write down your responses to the questions below:

1. What are you looking forward to in your Community Group this semester?

2. Is there anything specific in your life you want to put extra focus on to grow yourself spiritually this semester?

COMMUNITY GROUP COVENANT STF

Date _____

Leaders _____ Ph.# _____

Hosts _____ Ph.# _____

Small groups thrive on participation! The purpose of this covenant is to help you to discuss and clarify your group's goals, expectations, and commitments.

COMMUNITY GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

Community Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24, 25). We'll do this by focusing on four primary activities:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions". But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as *prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and meeting real needs*.

SERVE

Spiritual Growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God

FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

For our group to be healthy, we need to . . .

- 1) Make spiritual growth our number one priority (Romans 8:29).
- 2) Accept one another (Romans 15:7).
- 3) Take care of one another (John 13:34).
- 4) Treat each other with respect (Ephesians 4:25-5:2).
- 5) Keep our commitments to the group (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).

GUIDELINES & COVENANT

1. **Dates** We'll meet on _____ nights for _____ weeks. Our final meeting of this quarter will be on _____.
2. **Time** We'll arrive between _____ & _____ and begin the meeting at _____. We'll spend approximately _____ minutes in singing (optional), _____ minutes in study/discussion, and _____ minutes in prayer/sharing.
3. **Children** Group members are responsible to arrange child care for their children. Nursing newborns are welcome provided they are not a distraction to the group!
4. **Study** Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous Sunday's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.
5. **Prayer** Praying for one another.
6. **Homework & Attendance** Joining a Community Group requires a commitment to *attend each week and do the homework ahead of time*. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, and other special events—but not much more!

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

7. **Desserts** -
8. **Social & Service Project(s)** -

We agree together in Christ to honor this covenant. (To be decided by each person on or before the third week.)

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

10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____