

## **Growth Groups (sermon-based)**

### **Our Basic Purpose**

Growth 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 groups feels safer and more comfortable.

### **Study**

Each week we'll study a portion of God's Word that relates to the previous weekend'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.

### **Children**

For those of us with children, we understand that we are in someone else's home; and we will be responsible at all times for our children and their conduct.

## **Five Marks of a Healthy Group**

For our groups 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 groups—including attending regularly, doing the homework, and keeping confidences whenever requested (Psalm 15:1-2, 4b).

## **Selecting a Group**

The first two weeks are for selecting a group. On the third week, we will choose which group we are going to attend for the remainder of that session.