



Small GROUP COVENANT

Highlands Fellowship CHURCH

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.

Small GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

Small Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity through meaningful Christian relationships and study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). It's a goal of each small group to balance the five purposes. (Worship, Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry, Fellowship)

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first, this may feel awkward or intimidating. Don't over-think it and don't feel you have to share your deepest darkest secrets. Just get to know each other and let the conversations develop over time.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word relating to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate spiritual 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). It is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve, and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING VALUES

Clear Purpose To grow healthy, spiritual lives by balancing the 5 Biblical purposes in your Small Group.

Group Attendance To give priority to the group meeting (call if I am absent or late)

Safe Environment To create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved so we will be careful with being judgmental, giving quick answers, and offering our simple fixes to complex situations.

Be Confidential To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group.

Conflict Resolution To avoid gossip and to immediately resolve any concerns by following the principles of Matt. 18:15-17 which begins with going directly to the person with whom you have an issue. Prov. 26:20, Eph. 4:29

Spiritual Health To challenge and encourage one another to live a healthy and balanced spiritual life that is pleasing to God.

FIVE MARKS OF A HEALTHY GROUP

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

- 1) Gospel-Centered Hospitality. (1 Peter 4:9, Hebrews 13:2)
- 2) Gospel-Centered Authenticity. (Matthew 5:8, James 5:16)
- 3) Gospel-Centered Service. (Matthew 20:25-28, Gal. 6:1-2)
- 4) Gospel-Centered Mission. (Matthew 28:19-20 Eph. 4:11-16)
- 5) Gospel-Centered Bible Study. (Acts 2:46-47, Titus 2)

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. As a group we can also brainstorm various ways to address the need of childcare. If we need ideas, we can talk with someone from the small group team.
4. **Study** Our studies will focus on the same topic covered in the previous Sunday's sermon or an appropriate spiritual growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life as we balance the five purposes.
5. **Prayer** Praying for one another.
6. **Homework & Attendance** Joining a Small Group requires a commitment to attend regularly and to participate in the discussion. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, etc.

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

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

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. _____