

Neighborhood Group Expectations

Fairfax Community Church
(with Leader Notes)

LEADER: _____ HOST: _____

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

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS: THEIR PURPOSE

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

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

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "get-to-know-you 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. Our goal is to learn how to live out our life with Christ and with others.

Our goal is to interact interpersonally on the topic and how we can practically follow Christ, not to answer all the questions or rehash the sermon.

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.

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

For our group to live out this new command in John 13:34,
we look to our core values as a church:

Pray

Prayer acknowledges our total and complete dependency upon God. It empowers us to live the transformed, gospel-centered God that God has called us to live. As we support and care for one another, it starts with prayer.

Give

God calls us to be generous with the resources entrusted to our care. We learn to give over control of this by growing in our relationship with Jesus and seeking opportunities to be experience generosity.

Invite

We are surrounded by people who are not yet followers. God calls to love and invite our neighbors into our lives and our church community so that they might see and hear the good news of the Kingdom.

Mentor

We will make spiritual growth our priority as we listen accept and treat each other with respect. We commit to passing along the knowledge, skills and values that will enable others to grow in their relationship with Christ and for some, start and lead a Neighborhood Group.

Serve

God calls us to serve our neighbors and our community. Our service has the greatest impact when we serve together to accomplish God's mission in the world. We will come together to be part of opportunities offered by the church and other community partners.

GUIDELINES & AGREEMENT

1. Calendar: We will meet on a quarterly basis beginning in October and pausing during the months of July and August.
2. Time: We'll arrive between _____ & _____ and begin the meeting at _____. We'll spend approximately ____ minutes in fellowship, ____ minutes in study/discussion, and ____ minutes in prayer/sharing.
3. Children (if part of your group): Group members are responsible to arrange child care for their children or agree to having: _____.
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 from ABOVE. *Not to answer every question!*
5. Prayer: We will spend time praying for one another.

You'll go over tips on topical prayer the second week of group. Remember, being forced to pray in group or just the idea of it can cause people to not want to come to your group. If you have new people in your group, you might want to say something like this: "It's exciting to see how God works in our lives through prayer. We also realize prayer in groups is something many have never done. Know that you will never be forced to pray." Let them know you'll talk more in the weeks to come on how we do group prayer and that we break a lot of the stereotypes of what it means to pray.

6. Attendance: Joining a Neighborhood Group requires a commitment to attend each week. Obviously, allowances are made for sickness, vacation, work conflicts, and other special events.

This commitment is key to a healthy group.

If we cannot come to a meeting, we will contact (Who/How):

Emphasize the importance of the commitment to attendance and preparation (a good group starts with good preparation).

Make sure that everyone is with you (Do we agree? Is this what we want? Make eye contact, etc.)

Although there is no official homework, it helps to take notes during the sermons.

7. Refreshments/Desserts: Unique to each group.

If applicable, have everyone sign up for a night to do dessert.